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**Army's 'Mr. Outside,'
star during Cadets'
'40s heyday, dies**

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35th Fighter Wing
areas to focus on**

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returns to her
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Marines worried over lack of amphib ships

3-star: Navy vessel shortage leaves Corps unprepared for major combat

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Firing on Fuji

Marine
battery
visiting
scenic camp
for live-fire
training

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JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. Jody Grier adjusts the elevation and correction controls on a howitzer during live-fire training at Camp Fuji, Japan. Members of India Battery of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, temporarily based on Okinawa, spent several days this week in the field doing what they do best: firing the M198 medium-towed Howitzer.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Flight 93 memorial: A memorial honoring the 40 people who died when hijacked Flight 93 crashed in a Pennsylvania field during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks will cost \$30 million, according to a study.

The \$30 million primarily will be used to build the memorial, but the money also will go toward roads, parking lots and a visitor's center.

A capital campaign will be organized to raise donations, said Joanne M. Hanley, superintendent of the proposed memorial.

Brain-dead inmate: An inmate who was left brain-dead after being shot with a rubber bullet by a prison guard died from injuries from the projectile, according to an autopsy report released Wednesday.

Daniel D. Provenzo, 28, was shot in the head with the supposedly non-lethal projectile Jan. 16 during an altercation at Wasco State Prison. He was taken to Bakersfield's Mercy Hospital, where he remained in a coma and was hooked to a ventilator for weeks before he died Friday.

Bus waste dumping: A bus driver for the Dave Matthews Band pleaded guilty Wednesday to charges stemming from the dumping of 800 pounds of human waste from his vehicle's septic tank onto a sightseeing boat on the Chicago River.

Stefan Wohl was sentenced to 18 months probation and 150 hours of community service, said Tom Stanton, a spokesman for the Cook County state's attorney's office. He also was fined the maximum of \$10,000, which will be paid to Friends of the Chicago River, a conservation group Wohl, 42, of Selma, Texas, was charged with reckless conduct and discharging contaminants to cause water pollution.

World

Pakistan acknowledges nuke scientist: After years of denials, Pakistan admitted on Thursday that its top nuclear scientist sold centrifuges to Iran, though it stuck by its claim it knew nothing of his activities, and insisted he will not be turned over to another country for prosecution.

The admission by the nation's information minister was the first time since the world's atomic energy watchdog launched an investigation into Abdul Qadeer Khan's nuclear network that an Iranian or Pakistani official has acknowledged publicly that he sold Tehran centrifuges, a crucial



MARVIN E. THOMPSON JR., Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Working toward promotion: Petty officers third class take the Navy-wide advancement examination for petty officer second class at the Harbor View Club at U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo on Wednesday. The exam, given twice a year, allows sailors to compete for promotion to the next pay grade.

component needed to enrich the uranium that can be used in nuclear warheads.

Pakistan is a key ally in the war on terror. American officials acknowledge privately, however, that Washington is frustrated by Islamabad's refusal to allow Khan to be directly questioned by American agents.

Hong Kong leader: Hong Kong's beleaguered leader said Thursday he's quitting because of failing health — not pressure from his bosses in Beijing — as the global financial capital moved into a new political era that could bring power struggles, more demands for full democracy and meddling by China.

Tung Chee-hwa's resignation ended a political guessing game that dragged on for nearly two weeks in the former British colony that returned to Chinese rule eight years ago.

Pope's health: Pope John Paul II will extend his hospital stay "a few more days" but still plans to return to the Vatican in time for the start of Holy Week that begins on Palm

Sunday on March 20, the pontiff's spokesman said Thursday.

No date had been given for the frail pope's return, but the announcement appeared to suggest there may have been a plan to release him earlier that was dropped to give him more time to regain his strength.

At the hospital he is receiving only his closest aides, while back at the Vatican he might be tempted to resume regular audiences with visiting bishops and foreign officials.

Nepal civil liberties: Nepal's King Gyanendra could soon restore some of the civil liberties he suspended after seizing power last month, the foreign minister said Thursday, a day after the government released several political detainees and promised to restore mobile phone services.

"Let me assure you that the temporary suspension of the rights of our citizens will be revoked sooner [rather] than later," Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey told some foreign diplomats in the capital, Kathmandu.

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UDP Marines pull out the Big Guns at Fuji

Okinawa-based regiment gets live-fire field artillery training

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FUJI, Japan — Under the snowy outline of Mount Fuji, the big guns go off with a boom, sending 155 mm rounds miles into the horizon.

Members of India Battery of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, temporarily based on Okinawa and deployed to Camp Fuji, spent several days this week in the field doing what they do best: firing the M198 medium towed Howitzer, the Big Gun.

The visit to Fuji was unexpected, a change of plans necessitated by the scheduling chaos caused when 3rd Marine Division troops went to South Asia for tsunami relief missions.

Instead of visiting a live-fire training area in northeast Japan, the battery came to Camp Fuji, where they can practice under one of Japan's most legendary symbols.

"I think most of the Marines are pretty enthusiastic about being in a place they've seen pictures of," said Capt. Jason Patrick Brown, India Battery commander.

The battery is part of the Unit Deployment Program that rotates stateside Marine units to Okinawa and the Pacific for six-month intervals. Units usually return home for 18 months after a deployment but due to the war on terror, units' schedules have been out of whack.

The battery returned home from its last deployment for just six months and came back to Okinawa two months ago. Many of the battery Marines were in Camp Fuji less than a year ago.

By being overseas, the Marines can see some of the world as well as focus their training.

"You actually get more training done because there's less distractions," said Cpl. Robert A. Greco, assistant motor transportation chief. "Training is much more fast-paced."

At the battery's home in Camp Lejeune, N.C., they share ranges with other units, and those heading for Iraq have priority, said Cpl. Adam T. Gallo, assistant chief on Gun One, one of five in the battery.

Camp Fuji's range, one of the few places that allow live fire in Japan, is practically all theirs. The battery used the smallest charge possible, so the projectiles landed a mere few miles away. They can go as far as 18 miles with a larger charge, Gallo said.

For the training, the Marines live in the field, despite the chilling winter temperatures. They practice setting up by maneuvering the 16,000-pound guns into place and digging them into the mud and snow.

During live fire, the small group assigned to each gun



PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Above: Pfc. Tony Defeo grabs a 155 mm shell for a Howitzer during live-fire training at Camp Fuji, Japan, on Wednesday. He was with the India Battery of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, temporarily based on Okinawa that deployed to Camp Fuji for training. **Below left:** Pvt. James Killen attaches fuses to 155 mm Howitzer shells. **Below right:** Marines, who endured a cold, muddy week at Camp Fuji, load a Howitzer.



moves with orchestrated precision, loading the rounds, adding bags of explosives and attaching the primer.

Each fire initiates a tremendous boom, one after another down the row of guns. No one flinches at the sound anymore.

When they're done, the Marines will pack up, move, reposition and dig the gun in with shovels and sledgehammers.

The artillery Marines practice their jobs, while transportation guys practice tasks such as digging trucks out of the mud, which



after the snows melted, they had plenty of chances to do.

"I like terrain like this," said Greco. "It lets you know your limits."

The training also tests the Marines in other ways. After sleeping outside in 30-degree weather,

a hot or even cold shower is still a few days off.

The hardest part of the training, according to Cpl. Matt Childers, Section Chief for Gun One: "Staying clean and dry."

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Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The amphibious assault ship USS Essex sails in the Persian Gulf last year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Navy has 23 such ships; the Marine Corps would like to see 28-30.

Navy is cutting amphib ships short, Marine general warns

Magnus: Present number not enough to be effective force

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Marines' top resources official expressed serious concerns Thursday about the number of Navy ships and the ability of the fleet to rapidly deploy his troops to major combat operations overseas.

Marine Corps Deputy Commandant Lt. Gen. Robert Magnus said his forces need 28 to 30 amphibious assault vehicles ready for major combat operations. Currently, the Navy has 23 in its fleet.

He said the Navy's plan to build only four new ships next year — only one of which is an amphibious assault vehicle — leaves him worried about both service's futures.

"Quality is important, and we get the quality that we want," he told members of the House Armed Services Committee. "But the quantity itself is a problem. It's a problem with having peacetime forward presence. It's a problem for being able to rapidly surge the right number of ships It's a problem for major combat operations."

Navy officials said their plans take into consideration both force capabilities and financial responsibility.

"If there were more money, we'd buy more ships," said John Young Jr., assistant secretary of the Navy.

"But we believe we've struck the right balance."

The fleet today consists of about 290 surface ships and submarines. In testimony before Congress last month, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark said that number could rise as high as 325 or drop as low as 243 in coming years, depending on budget constraints and technological breakthroughs.

Several representatives voiced concerns over the fleet size and limited shipbuilding schedule for fiscal 2006, for which \$8.7 billion is allotted in the proposed defense budget.

Over the next five years construction of 49 new ships is planned.

Rep. Jo Ann Davis, R-Va., also objected to Navy plans to decommission one of its aircraft carriers — reducing the fleet from 12 to 11 — saying the fleet could drop even further temporarily if older carriers are retired and their replacements are delayed by budgetary problems.

Magnus said he understands the need to modernize the fleet, and he said the improved efficiency of the replacement ships

will allow the Navy to keep a somewhat smaller force with the same capabilities.

"Slipping or cutting the replacements is what concerns me," he said. "The trend over time goes down When you do over time that capability in the future, it does concern me."

John Young Jr.
Assistant secretary of the Navy

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35th Fighter Wing humbled by 'satisfactory' inspection

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MIASAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Brig. Gen. Bill Rew said he wasn't going to use the "d-word."

Humbled, maybe, but not disappointed.

The 35th Fighter Wing this week received an overall grade of "satisfactory" in the Pacific Air Forces Inspector General's Unit Compliance Inspection. Satisfactory indicates the wing meets mission requirements but is a middle-of-the-road grade in a five-tier scale ranging from "outstanding" to "unsatisfactory."

"It means the wing met the standards we set ... but there are minor deficiencies — which most wings have — that weren't significant enough to detract from the mission," said PACAF Inspector General Col. Jerry Siegel.

More than 100 PACAF inspectors and augmentees pored over paperwork, policies and procedures Feb. 28 to March 4, evaluating wing compliance with Department of Defense, U.S. Air Force and PACAF regulations, instructions and other requirements.

The wing was briefed on the 60-page inspection report Tuesday. "The grade was humbling," Rew told his troops after the briefing, considering Misawa has had much recognition in the

IG stresses need for UCI in post-9/11 world

Before this month's UCI, the 35th Fighter Wing last underwent a Unit Compliance Inspection four years ago — before Sept. 11, 2001. Brig. Gen. Bill Rew, 35th Fighter Wing and Misawa base commander, moved to another assignment just before the inspection but was 35th Operations Group commander while the wing prepared for the intense scrutiny.

"We got an 'excellent,'" he said of the wing's overall grade then.

But it was a different way of life: The only significant deployments at the time were to Operation Southern Watch, involving just a small number of airplanes, Rew said. Now, "a lot of our ships are manned at 50, 60 percent. A lot of our more experienced people are gone."

In PACAF, Misawa was one of the last bases to receive a UCI in the post-9/11 cycle, said Col. Jerry Siegel, Pacific Air Forces inspector general.

"While sometimes folks may be disappointed if they didn't get 'excellent' or 'outstanding,' we fully recognize how busy everybody is, the ops tempo people are under," he said. With many people deployed, preparing to deploy or just returning from a deployment during a UCI, "the

amount of resources the wing has to do all the Air Force ... requires of them is clearly a bigger stress than it's" several years ago.

PACAF wings receive a UCI about every two Aerospace Expeditionary Force cycles — which equates to about every 40 months. South Korean units are inspected more frequently because personnel there are on one-year remote tours, Siegel noted.

While some might contend wings are too busy for a UCI, "I would argue that it's even more important than ever in the post-9/11 world," Siegel said. Having independent evaluators assess areas including whether people are properly trained and certified to do their jobs and equipment is maintained is even more important, Siegel said. "It can get commanders in trouble or people hurt because a wing's so distracted by all that's going on in the world."

Siegel said the PACAF IG team was impressed by Misawa's preparation and attitude for and during the UCI. Airman on up to group commanders were "not only cooperative but very open to our inspectors coming in there. Across the board, we were very impressed with their dedication, morale, and work ethic."

— Jennifer H. Svan

past few years, from flying combat sorties over Baghdad to competing two years in a row for best Air Force base.

"But I was also humbled," he said, "that we did so well in a lot of areas where a lot of people have been deployed for a long time, including a lot of our people in leadership positions" leav-

ing many young airmen and non-commissioned officers "filling in the gap."

But Rew stressed deployments and Misawa's high operations tempo don't excuse the wing's performance in some areas. "The UCI is an open-book test. We know when the IG is going to come. We know what

they're going to look at. We know that they're going to look at everything, top to bottom," he said.

All units were found in compliance with requirements. The 35th Operations Group was the top performer at the group level, earning an overall grade of "excellent." The 35th Maintenance Group, 35th Mission Support

Group and Wing Staff all received a "satisfactory."

Rew highlighted three units that did exceptionally well: The 35th Contingent's Squadron, wing historian and public affairs were rated "outstanding." The general noted that 13 units also scored "excellent," eight received a "satisfactory" rating and two units — ground staff and the 35th Logistics Readiness Squadron — were graded "marginal," indicating "the performance or operation does not meet some mission requirements," Rew said.

Ground staff did have some successes, notably its traffic safety, "don't drink and drive" campaign, Rew said. But its confined-space program and industrial inspections need work, he said.

In the logistics readiness squadron, fuels, vehicle operations, vehicle maintenance and aircraft parts were graded highly. Rew said, with additional traffic management had deficiencies.

PACAF inspectors will return to re-evaluate units rated marginal in the next few months.

"I'm very confident in all our war-fighting skills across the spectrum, but some of our programs and some of our paperwork needs attention," Rew said. "The IG team has highlighted those areas for us and we will aggressively work to correct them."

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Investigator faults troops for detainee abuses

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A top investigator ordered by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to look into abuses at Abu Ghraib and other military detention facilities laid blame at the feet of individual troops and their commanders, but not top-level officials and policymakers.

Reporting to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday, Vice Adm. AlBERT Church reported

his key finding was that "clearly, there was no policy written or otherwise at any level that directed or condoned torture or abuse."



Church

After more than 800 interviews and reviewing thousands of pages of documents, Church said that while officials in Washington could learn from "missed opportunities" in providing better guidance to field commanders, no specific blame could be cast.

"Nevertheless," he added, "we did identify problems."

Among his findings: ■ **Leadership breakdown:** Citing a "breakdown of good order and discipline" among some units, Church wrote in the unclassified version of the report's executive

Senior officers may yet face discipline

The fates of several senior officials still hang in the balance as officials wrap up investigations. While some have been cleared, others are expected to face disciplinary action even as civil lawsuits are being filed. Among those waiting:

LT. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez — Leader of U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq from April 2003 to July 2004. An internal Army investigation and independent panel found Sanchez failed to provide proper oversight at Abu Ghraib and issued confusing policies on interrogations.

Status: Under investigation. Remains commander of V Corps. Recently named in an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit under charges of war crimes.

Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski — Sanchez's deputy commander in Iraq and, until recently, at V Corps. Responsible for overseeing support to detention facilities as well as direct oversight of the 205th MI Brigade and 800th MP Brigade at Abu Ghraib. Previous investigations determined he failed to provide proper leadership.

Status: Recently reassigned as special assistant to the commander of Army forces in Europe. Remains under investigation.

Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast — Senior intelligence staff officer under Sanchez. Questions have been raised about her involvement in Abu Ghraib.

Status: Exonerated by Army investigators and is expected to take command of Army intelligence training in Arizona soon.

Brig. Gen. Janis Karplinski — Commander of 800th Military Police Brigade. Harshly criticized by investigators for weak and ineffective leadership that created a climate at Abu Ghraib that led to the abuses. One investigation also accused her of "material misrepresentations" during questioning.

Status: Suspended from command duties. Recently issued a letter of reprimand by Army Chief of Staff Dick Cody. Named in ACLU lawsuit.

Col. Thomas Pappas — Commander of 205th Military Intelligence in Iraq. Accused of multiple leadership failures, including improperly authorizing the use of dogs in interrogations.

Status: Remains commander of 205th MI Brigade, now redeployed home to Germany. Under investigation. Named in ACLU lawsuit.

LT. Col. Stephen L. Jordan — Director of Joint Interrogation Debriefing Center. Accused of multiple leadership failures, including properly training and supervising his troops and for being deceitful during abuse investigations. Failure to obey direct orders to not talk about the case with others. "He conducted an e-mail campaign soliciting support from others involved in the investigation."

Status: Under investigation.

— Jon Anderson

utive summary, "This breakdown implies a failure of unit-level leaders."

■ **Heat of combat:** "The nature of the enemy, and the tactics it has employed in Iraq and to a lesser extent in Afghanistan" may have played a role in this abuse," wrote Church, explaining that 23 out of 70 documented cases of abuse occurred at the "point of capture" when emotions

are running high.

■ **Ignored warning signs:** Writing that he could not provide unclassified details, "there was a failure to react to early warning signs of abuse" by local commanders, Church testified that the Red Cross in particular had repeatedly raised red flags at Abu Ghraib, but that leadership reaction was "not as swift as it could have been."

Church, who until recently was the Navy Inspector General and now heads the Navy staff at the Pentagon, took fire from various corners of the committee, however, for not delving deeper into some areas of concern.

Michigan Sen. Carl Levin, the ranking Democrat on the committee, was quick to take Church to task.

"There has been no assessment

of accountability of any senior officials," Levin told Church. "The failure of accountability of senior leaders sends the wrong signal to our troops and the American people. It harms the United States' standing as a nation of laws, and undermines the high standards of our armed forces."

"The bland label of 'missed opportunities' does not explain the absence of leadership accountability," Levin. "These are failures of command at high level."

Church, who earlier said he was ordered to review the investigations completed so far and fill in the gaps not covered by those reports, responded he was not tasked with delving into the question of leadership accountability.

In a heated exchange with Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, Church defended the Bush administration's decision to withhold Geneva Convention protections from captured Taliban soldiers in Afghanistan.

"You know, the North Vietnamese made the same determination about American prisoners," said McCain, who, as a naval aviator spent five years at the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" after getting shot down during the Vietnam war.

"It's a good debate," responded Church.

"Well, sir, I think it's a little more than a good debate," McCain said. "I am very concerned about what will happen to Americans who are taken prisoner or unlawfully detained. I am very specific guidelines that we adhere to."

— Jon Anderson at: jon.anderson@stripes.osd.mil

Recent investigations into allegations of prisoner abuse

■ **Taguba Report** — An internal Army "15-6 Investigation" ordered by LT. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez on Jan. 31, 2001, and completed May 11, 2004. Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba accused soldiers in the 800th Military Police Brigade at Abu Ghraib of "sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuses." Responding to a senator's question about how such actions were possible, he responded:

"Failure in leadership, sir, from the bri-

gade commander on down. Lack of discipline, no training whatsoever and no supervision. Supervisory omission was rampant."

■ **Mikolashek Investigation** — Army Inspector General LT. Gen. Paul Mikolashek was ordered to look into training and prison operations throughout U.S. Central Command in February 2004. He issued his report in July, finding 94 confirmed cases of abuse, but no evidence of leadership fail-

ure.

■ **Jones-Fay Report** — In another 15-6 (internal) investigation, LT. Gen. Anthony Jones and Maj. Gen. George Fay were ordered in April 2004 to look into alleged misconduct by members of the 205th MI Brigade and operations at Abu Ghraib. Their findings, released in August, accused the 205th's commander Col. Thomas Pappas and commander of the 800th MP Brigade of wrongdoing. Their investigation also

said Sanchez and his deputy Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski failed to provide proper oversight at Abu Ghraib and the units there.

■ **Schlesinger Report** — An independent panel led by former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger was commissioned by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in May. Findings released in August largely corroborated the Jones-Fay report.

— Jon R. Anderson



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Worship Service 10:45 am
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Youth Abuse Service

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Holy Grounds Café (2nd & 4th Sunday) 6:00 pm

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PACAF chief master sgt. vows to hit ground running

BY JIM O'DONNELL

AND T.D. FLACK

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Pacific Air Forces' new command chief master sergeant, Rodney J. McKinley, said he is going to hit the ground running when he reports to his new command in Hawaii on March 24. McKinley, a bronze star recipient, is leaving behind the snow and slopes of Alaska, where he served as command chief master sergeant for the 11th Air Force at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

"I am putting my sweaters and coats in storage bags right now," McKinley said Wednesday morning.

McKinley replaces Chief Master Sgt. David Popp, who addressed Pacific Air Forces troops for the last time in late February,

according to an Air Force news release. Popp has been selected to be the command chief for Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va.

"We've had great leadership there before," McKinley said of his PACAF assignment. "It's not like I need to come in and fix something that's broken."

McKinley said he will bring a little bit of his personality and pick up where Popp left off.

"It's about establishing great relationships with the senior leadership at each one of the bases and make sure we are all on the same page and we have good conversations and good rapport," McKinley said. "And make sure we are all on the same page to take care of the troops."

He said a priority is keeping

PACAF "trained and equipped to go fight America's battles," while taking care of the families left at home.

During his last speech to airmen in Hawaii, Popp told them he had spent about half of his tour "on the road," according to the news release.

"Many of PACAF's directors don't have the time or resources to go down as deep into the weeds, visiting with the individual airmen and understanding them to the extent that I have seen able to do since I've been here," he said.

He also challenged the airmen to stay focused, especially with what he labels "S4" — suicide, sexual assault, safety and stress, according to the report.

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Senator knocks delays in reimbursing GIs

BY LOUITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has not developed a plan to reimburse soldiers for equipment they've bought to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan despite requirements in a law passed last year, a senator says.

In a letter sent Wednesday to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., asked for details on the Pentagon's progress setting up the reimbursement program and questioned why it was not in place yet.

"Very simply, this is either negligence on their part, because they were not happy with this when it passed, or it's incompetence," Dodd told The Associated Press. "It's pretty outrageous when you have all their rhetoric about how much we care about our people in uniform."

Pentagon spokeswoman Lt. Col. Ellen

Dodd wants to know why program to pay for war gear not yet in place

Krenke said Wednesday that Rumsfeld will respond to Dodd's letter after he has reviewed it. She had no comment on the progress of reimbursement regulations. The Defense Department provided no further comment Thursday.

Soldiers serving in Iraq and their families have reported buying everything from higher-quality protective gear to armor for their Humvees, medical supplies and even global positioning devices.

"There should be no higher priority for our government than ensuring that American troops are well-equipped, particularly those on the front lines of battle in Iraq and Afghanistan," Dodd wrote. "Given their immense sacrifices, as well as the critical con-

tributions of their families and communities, hereby request that you immediately inform me as to the status of the Department's action to comply with this statutory requirement."

In response to complaints, Congress last year passed Dodd's amendment requiring the Pentagon to reimburse members of the armed services for the cost of any safety or health equipment that they bought or someone else bought on their behalf.

Under the law, the DOD had until Feb. 25 to develop regulations on the reimburse-



Dodd

ment, which is limited to \$1,100 per item. Dodd asked that Rumsfeld provide details on the department's progress. But he also said it was unclear what recourse he has, other than public embarrassment, to force the department to act.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who repeatedly decried the lack of equipment during his unsuccessful presidential campaign, said the Pentagon needs to move quickly to give the troops their reimbursement and armored Humvees.

"They should be living up to the letter of the law," Kerry said.

The latest emergency spending proposal for the war totals \$81.9 billion, including \$74.9 billion for the Defense Department. It includes \$3.3 billion for extra armor for trucks and other protective gear — underscoring a sensitivity to earlier complaints by troops.

Stars and Stripes editor Pat Dickson contributed to this report from Washington.

People help carry away the dead after a suicide bomber blew himself up Thursday during a funeral in the courtyard of a Shiite mosque in Mosul, Iraq. The attack killed at least 47 people and injured dozens.



AP

Suicide bomber kills at least 47, injuring Shiite funeral in Mosul

BY SINDBAD AHMED
The Associated Press

MOSEL, Iraq — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a Shiite mosque during a funeral Thursday, killing 47 people, an attack that came as Iraq's main Shiite party and a Kurdish bloc said they reached a deal that sets the stage for a new government to be formed.

U.S. troops cordoned off the northeastern Tameen neighborhood near the mosque, a poor area of the city crowded with many homes.

Civilian vehicles helped ambulance crews in ferrying casualties to hospitals.

"As we were inside the mosque, we saw a ball of fire and heard a huge explosion," said Tahir Abdullah Sultan, 45. "After that blood and pieces of flesh were scattered around the place," he added.

Rows of overturned white plastic chairs were seen in blood.

Body parts, believed to be of the bomber, were spread around the area, and the smell of gunpowder filled the yard. Windows of nearby cars were shattered.

"After the cloud of smoke and dust dispersed, we saw the scattered bodies of the fallen and smelled gunpowder," said Adnan al-Bayati, another witness.

At least 47 people were killed and more than 90 wounded, said Dr. Saher Maher, speaking from a hospital in the city. He said U.S. troops took 10 "very critical" patients to a military medical facility at their base in the city.

Insurgents in the past have targeted Shiite mosques and funerals.

The U.S. military unit that controls the area could not immediately be reached for comment.

Mosul has been a hotbed of insurgent activity and the scene of many bombings, drive-by shootings and assassinations against the country's security services. The Shiite majority and people thought to be working with U.S.-led forces.

The deal between the clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance and a Kurdish coalition will allow a new government to be named when the National Assembly opens next week.

It calls for the government to begin discussion on the return of

about 100,000 Kurds to the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk and talks about redrawing existing Kurdish regions to include the city in Iraq's new constitution.

It also gives the Kurds just one major Cabinet post — one fewer than they demanded — in return for making one of their leaders, Jalal Talabani, Iraq's first-ever Kurdish president. One ministry will go to the country's Sunni Arab minority, which largely stayed away from the Jan. 30 elections.

The Kurds agreed to back conservative Islamic Dawa Party leader Ibrahim al-Jaafari for prime minister.

As part of the deal, any land agreement will be incorporated into the country's new constitution, which must be drafted by mid-August and approved by referendum two months later.

"As for Kirkuk, we agreed to solve the issue in two steps. In the first step, the new government is committed to normalizing the situation in Kirkuk, the other step regarding annexing Kirkuk to Kurdistan is to be left until the writing of the constitution," said Foad Meslam, a member of the Kurdish coalition, who served as head of the Iraq's former National Council.

Danger for contractors increasing

BAGHDAD — A garbage truck loaded with explosives blew up Wednesday next to a Baghdad hotel housing U.S. workers, killing four people and wounding 30 Americans and 10 others in a suicide bombing that highlighted the danger of doing business in Iraq.

The U.S. Embassy said four of the wounded American contractors suffered injuries requiring them to be flown to a hospital for treatment. No Americans were killed, it said.

The blast ripped a hole in the parking lot at least 30 feet across and more than 10 feet deep, shattering most windows in the Sadeer hotel and rattling buildings hundreds of yards away. Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility in an Internet posting.

The risk taken by contractors working in Iraq has never been so great. They are regularly targeted by roadside bombs, attacked by insurgents and live in constant fear of kidnapping and decapitation.

In a Jan. 30 report to Congress, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction said at least 232 employees of private contractors had been killed in Iraq while working on U.S. military and reconstruction contracts since the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

From the Associated Press

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		Morning Service
		Sunday, March 13, 2005
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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

Philippine town mourns poisoned children

BY TERESA CERQJANO

The Associated Press

MABINI, Philippines — Weeping relatives watched as the coffins of some of the 27 schoolchildren who died after eating improperly prepared cassava root were lined up for burial at a Roman Catholic chapel in the central Philippines.

Overcome with grief, Lorenza Asas, mother of 7-year-old Sherwin Asas, stomped her feet on the floor. "I can't accept that my son is dead," she said, as her relatives tried to calm her.

The victims, most ages 7-13, bought the deep-fried caramelized cassava from vendors during snack time at the San Jose school in Mabini town on the central Philippine island of Bicol.

Another 103 people were hospitalized with severe stomach pains and diarrhea.

Starthy cassava roots, while rich in protein, minerals and vitamins, are poi-

sonous without proper preparation. The human digestive system can convert part of them into cyanide if they are eaten raw.

At a foothill cemetery, parents, residents and officials watched 12 coffins placed into side-by-side concrete niches. "Maybe everyone here is still in shock," Mayor Stephan Rances said with tears in his eyes as workers nailed the coffins shut before sealing the niches with cement. Relatives wept nearby.

Anicita Luyong, 33, grieved over the coffin of her 7-year-old son, Wilfredo Luyong Jr., in her house near the school.

She said the boy, who had wanted to be a soldier, came home crying with severe abdominal pain. He was taken to a hospital but did not survive.

One of the two vendors was also ill and still hospitalized Thursday, while the other was in police custody to protect her from outraged parents, said the town mayor's aide, Philip Fuderman.



Residents carry coffins of relatives during a mass burial Thursday in San Jose, Philippines. Sobbing parents prepared for a mass burial Thursday of 27 elementary schoolchildren who died after eating a snack of cassava, a root that's poisonous if not prepared correctly.

AP

Tokyo remembers 1945 firebombing



AP

Eldery survivors and relatives of the victims burn incense and pray during a memorial ceremony Thursday marking the 60th anniversary of the 1945 U.S. air raid on Tokyo. The devastating World War II assault killed some 100,000 people and reduced Tokyo to ashes. The raid has long been dwarfed in history by the U.S. nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but the Tokyo attack killed more people immediately than either atomic explosion, and it is widely considered the most devastating air raid of history.

Spanish cope with bombing on anniversary

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — One year ago on a Madrid commuter train, 10 backpack bombs allegedly planted by Muslim extremists blew up, killing 191 people and wounding more than 1,500.

On Thursday, Spain's Parliament observed five minutes of silence — broken only by the mournful strains of a cello playing Bach's Sarabande Suite No. 2 — in memory of victims of the bombings as Spain prepared to mark the massacre's first anniversary.

Lawmakers at the Congress of Deputies stood grim-faced by their seats in a prelude to a series of memorial acts scheduled for Friday.

"That ominous day sowed pain and desolation in the city of Madrid," the legislature said in a statement read out before the tribute. "It was a direct

blow to our life in peace and freedom and broke the hearts of all our citizens."

Friday's main memorial act also was to be silent — a short vigil at a park where 192 olive and cypress trees have been planted in honor of the people killed on the train and one special forces officer who died three weeks later while trying to arrest suspects.

A year later, "11-M" has become Spanish shorthand for a national tragedy, much like 9/11 is in the United States.

Fewer than half the injured have come to terms with their tragedy and moved on with their lives, said Maria Perles, a psychologist who works closely with the victims. The rest just relive their brush with death.

"The first year the pain is extremely intense," Perles said.

China angered by U.S.-Japan stance on Taiwan dispute

BY AKIRA FUJINO

The Yomiuri Shimbum

BEIJING — China has strongly objected to the joint security agreement recently announced by Japan and the United States, which has listed "a common strategic goal for the first time."

It is also likely to further cool Beijing's relations with Japan in particular, which in embroiled in a territorial dispute with China over the Senkaku Islands — called Diaoyu in China.

Japanese and U.S. foreign and defense officials held the "two-plus-two" meeting and announced revisions to the Japan-U.S. security alliance on Feb. 19.

Immediately after the declaration, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement that "the Chinese government and its people are definitely opposed" to the security agreement between Japan and the United States. Chinese media also have attacked it, with the Communist Party's paper, People's Daily, describing it as an intrusion by Japan and the United States into China's internal affairs.

China has consistently taken

the position that the Taiwan issue is an internal affair, not an international one. China therefore contends that the declaration is not acceptable.

Chinese newspaper, China Youth, bluntly expressed its mistrust of Japan and the United States. It said it is the United States' primary strategy to block China's peaceful development.

Analysis

The United States teams up with Japan on the Taiwan issue because of its boiling fear of China's rapid economic growth and improvement in military forces, the paper added.

China believes that it has yet to resolve the Taiwan issue mainly because of the intervention and intrusion of foreign powers, such as the United States.

For China, Taiwan is the largest unresolved political controversy of the last century. Regardless of how Japan and the United States deal with the Taiwan issue, China will not change its basic position of getting rid of foreign influence and promoting unification.

But after Japan and the United States posed their security strategy seeking a "peaceful resolution" right in the face of China, it has further increased its suspicion on how the Japan-U.S. alliance would attempt to get involved in this issue.

Americans at Saudi site on high alert

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — U.S. citizens living in a residential compound in western Saudi Arabia have been put on high alert after the American Embassy issued an increased threat level warning, officials said Thursday.

The warning singled out the Sierra Village, on the outskirts of Jiddah, where tensions remain high following a Dec. 6 attack on the U.S. consulate by Islamic militants.

A Sierra Village employee said the warning was issued Tuesday following an altercation a day earlier between security guards and youths in a car parked nearby.

From The Associated Press

Protest on plane

BRUSSELS, Belgium — A spokesman for a group of unarmed Iranian protesters held up on a Lufthansa jetliner at Brussels airport said Thursday they are on a hunger strike and are prepared to die for their cause to see the overthrow of the Iranian government.

"We won't be moved from here unless we die and they take our bodies from the airplane," said the man who gave only his first name, Ira, in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from the plane.

He said the group of protesters numbered 79, including four children and 22 women, and wanted the United States, the European Union and Russia to sign a statement to stop cooperating with the Iranian government.

Police said there were only 59 passengers refusing to leave the plane, out of the total 103 that took the flight from Frankfurt, Germany.

Official reappointed

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Lebanon's president, emboldened by a massive pro-Syria demonstration in Beirut, reinstated Omar Karami as prime minister on Thursday, 10 days after the Damascus-backed leader stepped down under popular and international pressure.

The move ensured Syria's continued dominance in Lebanese politics. Syria's allies felt they have the momentum in the political crisis and President Emile Lahoud's decision appeared to be in part political jockeying to show who sets the agenda as Syria's troop redeployment picked up.

Rebels challenge Abbas

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian gunmen burst into a meeting of the ruling Fatah Party on Thursday, forcing participants to disperse in a brazen challenge to Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas.

The incident cast doubt on his authority as he comes under increasing pressure from Israel to disarm militants.

Despite the unrest, Abbas said Thursday that he's confident militants will agree to a formal cease-fire at a meeting next week in Egypt.

Terrorism treaty

MADRID, Spain — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan proposed the creation of a comprehensive treaty outlawing terrorism Thursday, denouncing attacks that target civilians and arguing that no political grievance justifies killing the innocent.

Speaking at an international conference on terrorism, Annan said prevention is the best counterterrorism strategy, though he stressed that human rights and the rule of law must always be respected.

From The Associated Press

Vietnam War anniversary honored

The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — Soldiers and elephants paraded in the Central Highlands town of Buon Ma Thuot on Thursday in the first of several commemorations marking the victory of communist forces 30 years ago in the Vietnam War.

With the bust of revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh behind him, Truong Quang Duoc, a Politburo member and vice chairman of the National Assembly, said the March 10, 1975, battle for the town was the start of the end for U.S.-backed South Vietnam.

"This victory created a sudden change in the strategy that opened a direct opportunity for our army and people to advance forward for the complete liberation of the south and reunification of the country," he said.

The quick capture of Buon Ma Thuot was the first major victory for North Vietnamese troops as they made their final push down the country's coastline in the spring of 1975.

The Communist Party's official

mouthpiece, the Nhan Dan (People) newspaper, quoted Sgt. Gen Hoang Minh Thuo, former commander of the Central Highlands campaign, as saying the attack on Buon Ma Thuot surprised the U.S. military and its Saigon allies.

"We selected Buon Ma Thuot, because the enemy did not pay much attention (to this town) and thought that we could not have the ability to move our troops there," he said.

It set the stage for a series of rapid advances that claimed Hue on March 26 and Danang on March 29, leading up to the fall of the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon — now known as Ho Chi Minh City — just over seven weeks later on April 30.

That formally ended the Vietnam War — known here as "The American War" — and reunified the country. The bloody decade-long conflict claimed the lives of some 58,000 American troops and an estimated 3 million Vietnamese soldiers and civilians.



Ethnic minority participants ride elephants during a parade Thursday in Buon Ma Thuot, Vietnam, marking communist forces' victory in the town 30 years ago during the Vietnam War.

Kim Uen-a, a 23-year-old South Korean student, browses Chinese language books at a bookstore in Seoul on Tuesday. With China surpassing the United States as South Korea's largest trading partner and the ever-tightening domestic job market, young South Koreans are rushing to master Chinese.



More S. Koreans learn Chinese

BY IN-YOUNG BANG

The Associated Press

SEOUL — Yeo Ji-eun once felt that the English and Japanese classes she struggled through were enough to land a good job. Now, the 24-year-old electronics worker is in a crash course on the language of a country South Koreans once considered backward: China.

"I realized I've got to study Chinese these days. No matter which country you work in, no matter which company you work for, you have to think about doing business with China," said Yeo, who takes twice-a-week Chinese classes offered by a local government.

With China surpassing the United States as South Korea's largest trading partner and the ever-tightening domestic job market, young South Koreans are rushing to master Chinese as the new language of the future.

There is no definitive estimate of how many South Koreans are learning Chinese, and English remains the most widely learned foreign language. But billboards along the streets of the capital, Seoul, are increasingly crisscrossed with signs advertising Chinese language courses.

More than 35,000 South Korean students at-

tended Chinese colleges or graduate schools as of late 2003, making them the largest expatriate student community in China, according to the latest data available from the Chinese Embassy in Seoul.

In comparison, about 74,000 South Korean students were studying in the United States in 2003. They were the second-largest group of foreign students after 81,000 Japanese, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

As South Korean companies push into the Chinese market, more students figure the language will help land a job.

The Seoul city education department hopes to increase the number of Chinese teachers by 29 to 129 in junior high and high schools, where the language was recently adopted as an elective.

Though learning Chinese could be a fad, many South Koreans anticipate interest in China and its language will be a long-term trend.

"This phenomenon doesn't only apply to Koreans," said Chung Yu-ree, an instructor who has been teaching Chinese for four years in Seoul. "I think learning Chinese is required for everyone in the world. You've got to target China to survive in the business world."

Hong Kong Disneyland

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong Disneyland theme park set to open in September has already booked 10,000 rooms for its hotel since it opened a customer call center three weeks ago, officials said Wednesday.

"It really took us by surprise, the volume of calls coming in," said Bill Ernest, managing director of operations at Hong Kong Disneyland.

Ernest said Hong Kong residents have made more than 10,000 reservations at the park's 1,000-room hotel, though the park expects that about 40 percent of the visitors will eventually come from mainland China.

The park, scheduled to open Sept. 12 as a joint venture between the Hong Kong government and The Walt Disney Co., is being built on reclaimed land at Penny's Bay on Hong Kong's outlying Lantau island.

Continental under investigation

POINTE-AUX-FRANCAIS, France — A French magistrate opened a formal investigation on Thursday of Continental Airlines for manslaughter for the suspected role played by one of its jets in the July 2000 crash of the supersonic Concorde. Continental shares fell nearly 4 percent.

French investigating judge Christophe Regnard placed Continental under investigation — a step short of being formally charged — for manslaughter and involuntary injury, judicial officials said.

Continental Airlines Inc., based in Houston, has said it does not believe it had responsibility in causing the crash.

Strikes disrupt transportation

PARIS — Planes, trains and metros were canceled, and postal workers and teachers stayed home in a nationwide day of defiance Thursday against government economic policies — notably plans to let the French work longer hours.

The strikes coincided with a visit by Olympic inspectors assessing the French capital's bid to host the 2012 Summer Games.

Tens of thousands of protesters marched through Paris, answering the call of unions for a massive turnout to defend France's 35-hour workweek and to push for more jobs and salary talks.

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Agent Orange lawsuit Vietnamese dismissed

BY MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A federal judge Thursday dismissed a lawsuit by some 4 million Vietnamese claiming that U.S. chemical companies committed war crimes by making Agent Orange for use during the Vietnam War.

U.S. District Judge Jack B. Weinstein disagreed that allegedly toxic defoliant and similar U.S. herbicides should be considered poisons banned under international rules of war, even though they may have had comparable effects on people and land.

The judge also found that the plaintiffs could not prove that Agent Orange had caused their ill-

nesses, largely because of a lack of large-scale research.

Plaintiffs' lawyers said an appeal was planned.

The lawsuit was the first attempt by Vietnamese plaintiffs to seek compensation for the effects of Agent Orange, which is laden with the highly toxic chemical dioxin and has been linked to cancer, diabetes and birth defects among Vietnamese soldiers, civilians and American veterans.

U.S. aircraft sprayed more than 21 million gallons of the chemical between 1962 to 1971 in attempts to destroy crops and remove foliage used as cover by communist forces.

Lawyers for Monsanto, Dow Chemical and more than a dozen

other companies had said they should not be punished for following what they believed to be the orders of the U.S. government.

They also argued that international law generally exempts corporations, as opposed to individuals, from liability for alleged war crimes.

"We've said all along that any issues regarding wartime activities should be resolved by the U.S. and Vietnamese governments," said Dow Chemical spokesman Scot Wheeler. "We believe that defoliants saved lives by protecting allied forces from enemy ambush and did not create adverse health effects."

The Department of Justice had supported the chemical companies in court, saying a ruling against the firms could cripple the president's power to direct the military.

A plaintiffs' lawyer, William Goodman, said the judge made "a clear error" in deciding Agent Orange was not a poison and said an appeal was planned.

Some 10,000 U.S. war veterans receive medical disability benefits related to Agent Orange.

The Vietnamese government has said the United States has a moral responsibility for damage but has never sought compensation for victims.

Love Stars and Stripes' Photo of the Day feature?



Jackson makes late arrival at courthouse

BY TIM MOLLOY

The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — A pajama-clad Michael Jackson arrived more than an hour late to his child molestation trial Thursday, but the judge who had threatened to arrest him resumed the case without taking any action against the singer in open court.

The singer's young accuser returned to the stand for a second day, saying Jackson gave him wine and called it "Jesus juice."

Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville had issued an arrest warrant when Jackson failed to arrive on time, but told defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. he would hold it for one hour. The judge, obviously angry, also had threatened to revoke his \$3 million bail.

Mesereau, who told the judge Jackson was being treated for a severe back problem, paced outside court and talked on his cell phone until the singer arrived, a few minutes past the judge's deadline. Jackson walked in gingerly, dressed in a jacket over pajamas and looked distressed.



Former President Bill Clinton watches his shot at the Medalist Golf Club before a benefit golf tournament for tsunami relief efforts on Wednesday. Clinton's surgery on Thursday went fine, his office said.

Surgery on Clinton deemed 'successful'

BY VERENA DOBNIK

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Surgeons successfully removed fluid and scar tissue from Bill Clinton's chest cavity Thursday, cleaning up minor complications from the former president's heart bypass operation of six months ago.

Clinton was "awake and resting comfortably" after four hours of surgery, said Herbert Purdes, president of New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center.

His wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, and daughter Chelsea were with him and said to be pleased with the outcome.

The surgery began at 7 a.m., about two hours after Clinton arrived in an SUV at the Manhattan hospital on a brisk winter morning.

Clinton, 58, told doctors he was looking forward to getting on with his recovery. Doctors expect him to make a full recovery, which would take anywhere from three to 10 days.

Clinton underwent heart bypass surgery in September because of clogged arteries. Doctors described Thursday's operation as a low-risk procedure to relieve a complication that crops up in only a fraction of 1 percent of bypass patients.

The scar tissue was pressing down on Clinton's left lung, causing discomfort and reduced lung capacity. Dr. Joshua Sonett, one of Clinton's surgeons, said at a news conference that the combination of fluid and scar tissue had decreased Clinton's lung capacity by 25 percent before the operation.

The operation typically is done either through a small incision or with a video-assisted scope inserted between the ribs. The patient is given general anesthesia.

The Secret Service, police and hospital security staff conducted a sweep of the walkways and corridors as Clinton was whisked inside through a side entrance before the operation. He arrived at the hospital in an SUV that pulled inside a hospital gate, providing quick access inside.

The former president had been in Florida on Wednesday at a charity golf tournament to benefit tsunami victims. He appeared relaxed, cracking jokes about his golf game and saying he wasn't worried about the surgery.

More than 1,000 people sent the 42nd president good wishes through his Web site.

The Clintons asked well-wishers to make donations to the American Heart Association, which set up a special location for such contributions on its web site.

You can now own prints of the memorable images of service members, statesmen, celebrities and civilians taken by Stars and Stripes photographers, as shown in the Photo of the Day Feature in Stars and Stripes website.

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STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Rather signs off as CBS evening anchor

By DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — To the end of his career as CBS News anchor, Dan Rather started down his critics.

Rather ended his final broadcast at the "CBS Evening News" on Wednesday with the message he was once ridiculed for offering: "courage."

The 73-year-old has covered a breathtaking array of stories in more than 40 years at CBS, from the Kennedy assassination to the recent tsunami, and was the network's most visible face for the past 24 years. He replaced Walter Cronkite on the evening news on March 9, 1981.

Bob Schieffer is Rather's temporary replacement. CBS expects to name a permanent anchor team in the coming months.

Rather was the second of the three men who dominated network news for more than two decades to step down in four months. NBC's Tom Brokaw exited in November, leaving ABC's Peter Jennings remaining at "World News Tonight."

His voice slightly hoarse, Rather was in business for the first 20 minutes of Wednesday's broadcast. He didn't mention the special day, and nei-

A collection of 'Ratherisms'

The Washington Post

Some call them "Ratherisms." Others prefer "Danisms." It was election time that inspired Dan Rather to come up with his most memorable sayings.

NOVEMBER 1988

"George Bush is sweeping through the South like a tornado through a trailer park."

NOVEMBER 1992

The election is so exciting it could "make the wax pop out of your ears if you love politics."

their counterparts John Roberts or Anthony Mason when they threw stories back to him.

Then Rather looked back on what he called the most important story of his career — the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He opened the news that evening by saying, "You will remember this day as long as you live."

He thanked viewers at the end of Wednesday's newscast, then mentioned Sept. 11 survivors, tsunami sur-

NOVEMBER 1994

Election results were "scary enough to make the Democrats' fingernails sweat."

NOVEMBER 1996

Election night was "the long kiss goodnight for Bob Dole."

NOVEMBER 2000

"This race is tight like a too-small bathing suit on a too-long ride home from the beach."

NOVEMBER 2004

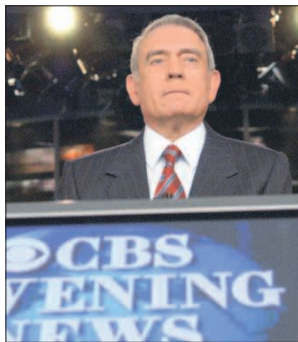
"We don't know what to do. We don't know whether to wind a watch or bark at the moon."

vivors, the American military, the oppressed, the sick and fellow journalists in dangerous places. "And, to each of you," he said, "courage."

For a week in September 1986, Rather ended the news with the words "courage." He gave it up after being mocked for it.

Rather wants most to be remembered as a reporter.

He said he's not retiring, but changing jobs. He will be a reporter for CBS's "60 Minutes" broadcasts.



CBS/AP

Dan Rather anchors his last "CBS Evening News" broadcast Wednesday from the CBS Broadcast Center in New York. Rather began anchoring on March 9, 1981.

Lisa Walker, a U.S. Forest Service maintenance worker, uses binoculars Wednesday to view steam as it rises from the crater of Mount St. Helens in Washington state.



AP

Mount St. Helens blast 'small potatoes'

The Associated Press

MOUNT ST. HELENS, Wash. — Josh White has gotten timing.

The 31-year-old from Astoria, Ore., missed it when Mount St. Helens reawakened in the fall. On Wednesday, the volcano enthusiast rushed to the mountain to get a look at the massive plume that stretched seven miles high the night before. It had been replaced by a wispy cloud.

"It's been twice in a row now that the mountain has blown before I could get up here," White said, camera in hand.

"I do think if it goes big, this is going to be it — but what a way to go."

For a few minutes Tuesday, it seemed like it could be the big one. Scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey's volcano observatory in Vancouver, Wash., were getting ready to head home when the squiggly line on the computer that tracks seismic activity at Mount St. Helens suddenly turned a solid black.

"It just kept on going and going and going," said research hydrologist Jon Major, describing the seismic line that registered Tuesday's earthquake measuring a magnitude of 2.0.

The mountain, located some 50 miles away, was belching steam and ash, signaling the most powerful blast since Mount St. Helens awoke last fall.

Compared with the eruption that killed 57 people on May 18, 1980, the plume "is really small potatoes," Major said.

The outpouring began with practically no warning at around 5:25 p.m., about an hour after the 2.0 magnitude quake registered on the east side of the 8,364-foot volcano, said Bill Steele, coordinator of the Pacific Northwest Seismograph Network in Seattle.

Scientists will spend the next few days combing through the hours of data just before the plume to see if they missed any markers. They also intend to gather ash samples near the crater to study its rock chemistry and to determine if the composition of the magma has become richer in explosive gases.

launched on selected flights in July 2003, with a wider assortment of free snacks in coach class on most domestic and some Latin American and Caribbean flights of more than 90 minutes.

Killer of four executed

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. — A man who spent nearly a quarter-century on death row for killing a couple and their two children was executed early Thursday.

Donald Ray Wallace, 47, died by injection at 12:23 a.m. at the Indiana State Prison. He was convicted in 1982 of slaying the Gilligan family — parents Patrick, Theresa, Lisa, 5, and Gregory, 4 — two years earlier during a robbery at their Evansville home.

Wallace is the 12th person executed by the state of Indiana since the death penalty was reinstated in 1977.

From The Associated Press

Counterintelligence goes on the offensive

By KATHERINE SHRADER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government suspects more than 2,000 Chinese companies of operating in the United States to steal secrets and wonders whether more than 300,000 Chinese visitors are really here for study and research.

These concerns about who might be swiping

U.S. information extend to several departments — from Defense to Energy to State — and officials say it underscores the need for pre-emptive action embodied in President Bush's plan for a new, national counterintelligence strategy.

As soon as this month, Bush is expected to direct U.S. intelligence agencies to go on the offensive to prevent the loss of secrets and technology, a policy consistent with the pre-emptive military strategy the administration developed in 2002.

National Counterintelligence Executive Michelle Van Cleave provided a broad outline of the new classified strategy — the Seven Pillars of U.S. Counterintelligence — at a conference last weekend in Texas. A leading goal is to shift from reactive counterintelligence operations — finding spies and other sources of leaks after they've done significant damage — to offensive operations.

"I no longer will we wait until we have been harmed to act," Van Cleave said.

Intelligence experts say the

task will be difficult, given the espionage threats from China, Russia and other countries, as well as terrorist groups and other interests determined to penetrate the United States.

Government officials say there are counterintelligence successes every day that are never made public. Some cases involve suspected spies who are given "full transactional immunity" for details of their activities — a rare government promise to avoid prosecution in exchange for full disclosure.

The individual's career may end, but he or she will avoid jail time.

But some experts say the unfortunate reality is that only one truly major espionage case has ever been unraveled through classic detective work: the case of CIA turncoat Aldrich Ames. He helped devastate U.S. intelligence operations against the Soviets by selling them secrets between 1985 and 1994.

Richard Haver, a former assistant defense secretary for intelligence, notes that the number of Americans with access to sensitive information is massive. At Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's request during early 2001, Haver tabulated that 13 million people had been granted security clearances. In 2001, there were 900,000 active clearances.

"No longer will we wait until we have been harmed to act."

Michelle Van Cleave
National counterintelligence executive



Rap artists 50 Cent, left, and The Game hold checks Wednesday during a news conference in Harlem, N.Y. The two rappers, who have been feuding for a week, announced an end to the disagreement and donations to the Boys Choir of Harlem.

Gangsta rappers end bitter weeklong feud

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Perhaps selling 1.1 million copies of his new album in four days has softened the heart of 50 Cent. Or maybe he has so many feuds going, he can afford to let one go.

On Wednesday, 50 Cent and The Game publicly squashed a bitter feud that had erupted into gunfire last week after 50 kicked Game out of his G-Unit clique for disloyalty.

The two platinum-selling gangsta rappers didn't exactly kiss and make up. When they emerged before a media throng at Harlem's famed Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, both looked as if they'd been shoved into apologies by a stern mother.

But they did shake hands, albeit at the end of the news conference, after speaking about contrition and the need for peace.

50 noted that Wednesday was the anniversary of the unsolved murder of Biggie Smalls in 1997, the culmination of a rap war between Biggie and Tupac Shakur that pitted East Coast against West.

"We're here today to show that people can rise above the most difficult circumstances and together

we can put negativity behind us," said 50, a native New Yorker. "A lot of people don't want to see it happen, but we're responding to the two most important groups, our family and our fans."

"I just want to apologize on behalf of myself and 50," said Game, who's from the Los Angeles suburb of Compton. "I'm almost ashamed to have participated in the things that happened in the last couple of weeks."

50 presented an oversized check for \$150,000 to the Boys Choir of Harlem. Game donated \$103,500. It was not clear why Game chose that amount or whether he had been reinstated in G-Unit; no questions were taken at the news conference. The Game also made a contribution to the Compton schools music program.

Is the truce sincere? "Of course it's genuine," said hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons, who was at the event. "They stood on stage together."

At the very least, it was a remarkable concession for rappers who routinely brag about killing their enemies.

"It is the first time we've seen 50 publicly take a step back" from a battle, said Elliott Wilson, editor in chief of the hip-hop magazine XXL.

Long-awaited arrival

Missing remains of Texas GI return home after 60 years

By BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH, Texas — A shoving brush.

A piece of a comb.

Part of a boot.

A worn set of dog tags.

These clues helped unearth a 60-year-old mystery about the whereabouts of Pfc. Preston "Pug" Harris.

In November 1944, the 23-year-old soldier from Greenville, Texas, was part of the 405th Infantry Regiment, 102nd Infantry Division that was fighting along the heavily fortified Siegfried Line near the German-Netherlands border.

The regiment's records state that Harris was killed Nov. 22, 1944, near Beek, Germany. He was eight days short of his 24th birthday.

Harris was officially listed as killed in action, but the location of his body was unknown. The family was told that he might have been buried in an unmarked grave at a military cemetery in the Netherlands.

His family knew little else.

"One of my other uncles wrote one of the men in Preston's unit who said they were in a field when an 88 (mm) round came in on him and the other guy, and that was it," said Harris' nephew, Knighton Hudson, 50, of Wylie in North Texas.

The first step toward solving the mystery occurred in June 2003 when a German company that was removing unexploded ordnance from the battlefield uncovered human remains in an unmarked grave.

The personal items found in the grave led officials to believe they had discovered a U.S. soldier's remains. The remains were transferred to the Hurler War Cemetery and later to the U.S. Army Mortuary Affairs Activity in Landstuhl, Germany.

A team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command



Pfc. Preston Harris

at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii came to the Beek area in June, excavated the site and took possession of the remains, Hudson said.

After examining dental and medical records, the investigators were able to identify Harris.

A military representative visited Harris' family in February and returned some of the personal items that had been recovered.

Bob Mason, general manager of Peters Funeral Home in Greenville, said his staff did a double take when they first learned the date of Harris' death. "It was a very interesting thing when we started talking about a death that occurred on Nov. 22, 1944," Mason said.

Harris' military funeral is scheduled for Saturday in Greenville. But the service won't include a ceremonial rifle volley. "My grandson didn't want that," Hudson said. "She felt like he already had enough shooting over her head."

Harris was the youngest of 10 children. The only surviving family member is his 89-year-old sister, Maple Harris Hudson.

Internet casino buys 'Virgin Mary' pretzel



GoldenPalace.com, an Internet casino, has won in the bidding for a pretzel said to be shaped like the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus. The sellers, Kent and Michelle Naylor of St. Paul, Neb., sold the pretzel Wednesday on eBay for \$10,600. The Naylor's 12-year-old daughter, Crysta, said she discovered the pretzel while snacking and watching television with her family on Feb. 27. In November, the casino paid \$28,000 for a partially eaten grilled cheese sandwich said to resemble the Virgin Mary.

THE GRAND ISLAND INDEPENDENT/AP

U.S. Consul issues guides for spring breakers

By LYNN BREZOSKY
The Associated Press

MATAMOROS, Mexico — The U.S. Consulate on Wednesday warned spring breakers that they should be safe from the drug violence plaguing the border if they don't do "stuff you would not do at home," like urinate in public — and aren't on the streets at 2 a.m.

U.S. Consul John Naland said American officials are distributing 10,000 bright yellow fliers at hotels and condominiums around South Padre Island, Texas, upon which college students will descend for spring break and cross the border to enjoy the lower drinking age in Mexico. The fliers will also be sent to border-crossing tour buses.

Naland issued the fliers Wednesday to coincide with the State Department's more sweeping update on foreign travel.

In September 2004, the U.S. consulate issued an advisory for Reynosa, Mexico, across from McAllen, Texas, warning of U.S. tourists and busi-

ness travelers being shaken down by police. In some cases, the police took tourists to remote ATM machines and ordered them to withdraw money.

That advisory was superseded in January by a more strongly worded State Department alert about drug shootings, kidnappings, and weak police surveillance along the border. U.S. officials said 27 U.S. citizens had been abducted along the Mexican side of the border over six months. Two had been killed.

The alert sparked an outcry among city leaders on both sides of the border, who said it would cripple the thousands of vendors, restaurateurs, disco owners and others who rely on tourists.

With trade spilling back and forth between Matamoros and Brownsville, the mayors of those two cities and of South Padre Island said they would ask the government to tone down the warnings.

Naland said someone traveling in the group to a well-known place should be fine.

Naland said his latest message was the same for churches that send youths to Mexico on mission trips during Easter break and throughout the summer.

Coming Soon to
STARS AND STRIPES
INTERNET SHOPPING GUIDE 2005
What you need to know to be a Savvy Net Shopper.
March 16, 2005

Kathleen Mungler, of Holliston, Mass., smokes a cigarette outside a restaurant in Providence, R.I. Researchers are optimistic about finding a drug that will help people stop smoking.



Quit smoking with a pill?

Researchers working on drugs to cut nicotine dependency

BY MATT APUZZO
The Associated Press

GROTON, Conn. — Researchers are racing to develop a potentially lucrative drug that would make smoking as treatable as erectile dysfunction, high cholesterol and acid reflux disease.

Major pharmaceutical companies and small startups see the potential for billions of dollars in sales for a vaccine or a nicotine-free pill that could end addiction at the chemical level for America's 50 million smokers.

"It's the biggest addiction market there is," said Dr. Herbert D. Kleber, a psychiatry professor and addiction researcher at Columbia University. "Is it realistic to be able to help addicts stop smoking and remain off with a pill? I think the answer is yes and we're working on a number of them."

While nicotine patches, gums, lozenges and sprays help wean smokers off cigarettes by slowly reducing their dependence on nicotine, researchers are tailoring drugs to mimic or block nicotine's chemical reactions with the body.

In Connecticut, researchers at Pfizer Inc. identified a brain receptor that nicotine binds to and designed a drug, varenicline, that latches to the same site. Varenicline is in Phase III testing, normally the last step before a company applies for approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

Researchers hope that the drug will attach to nicotine receptors in the brain, preventing overpower-

ing cravings from setting in when someone stops smoking.

If varenicline's claims hold up, the drug could generate more than \$500 million a year in sales, said David Moskowitz, an analyst with Friedman, Billings, Ramsey & Co. "It's an unmet medical need," said Dr. Karen Reeves, executive director of clinical development for Pfizer. "The morbidity and mortality rate is so high, and doctors and smokers really have not had enough in their armamentarium to help smokers stop smoking."

Then there's NicVax, a drug that Florida-based Nabil Pharmaceuticals claims could be used as a nicotine vaccine. NicVax triggers the production of antibodies that bind to nicotine molecules, preventing them from reacting with receptors in the brain.

"Everyone has been looking for the magic bullet," said Thomas Glynn, director of cancer science and trends for the American Cancer Society.

Whether one will be found remains uncertain, he said. It's more likely, doctors agree, that scientists will develop a number of successful drugs that will prove effective, but no single pill will "cure" smoking.

Doctors with high hopes have been let down before. In 1997, the FDA approved bupropion, commonly sold under the name Zyban, as an anti-smoking drug. The drug, which was originally marketed as an antidepressant, has proved successful for some smokers but was never the industry blockbuster some expected.

Cholesterol drugs in high doses help cut heart problems

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Giving people with modestly clogged arteries very high doses of a drug to drive their cholesterol down to very low levels cut their risk of strokes and heart attacks even more impressively than expected, the first study to test this strategy found.

Although some patients developed liver problems that forced them to stop taking the medication, researchers believe the benefits of this approach outweigh its risks. Still, specialists said more study is needed to establish its safety before it can be recommended.

"This was a very gutsy study," said Dr. John LaRossa of State University of New York in Brooklyn, who led the large international study. "This is new territory."

He presented the findings Tuesday at an American College of Cardiology meeting in Orlando. They also were published online by the New England Journal of Medicine and will be in its April 7 issue.

Statins drugs such as Lipitor, Zocor and Mevacor have shown an impressive ability to lower LDL, or "bad" cholesterol, and reduce the risk of heart trouble. Recently, some doctors have advocated a much more aggressive strategy of driving cholesterol levels down even farther for certain people.

A study of this approach was funded by and involved many doctors with ties to Pfizer Inc., which makes Lipitor. It is one of six statins on the market. Guidelines advise people at high risk of a heart attack to get LDL to 70 and those at moderate risk to aim for 100.

A previous study found that giving high-dose statins to lower cholesterol below 100 helped people who recently suffered a heart attack. This study, in contrast, involved people who had clogged

High-dose statins further reduce risks

High doses of the statin drug atorvastatin to reduce cholesterol can decrease the risk of strokes and heart attacks, Major cardiac events were 22 percent lower among those on high-dose statins, though some developed liver inflammation.

Major cardiac events after nearly five years

Low dose 10.9%
High dose 8.7%

Patients showing adverse effects related to treatment

Low dose 5.8%
High dose 8.1%

NOTE: Low dose 10 mg; high 80 mg.

SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine

heart arteries that occasionally caused chest pain but were in no immediate danger of a heart attack. Up to 13 million Americans are in that category.

About 10,000 people in 14 countries took either 10 milligrams or 80 milligrams of Lipitor and brought their LDL levels to 101 and 77, respectively.

After nearly five years, 10.9 percent of those on the low dose had died or suffered a stroke, heart attack or other big problem, compared with 8.7 percent on the high dose. That means that patients on high doses had a 22 percent lower risk.

That is better than doctors had expected, LaRossa said. "Most of us thought that when you got to 100, going lower would be marginal at best," he said.

However, about 1.2 percent developed signs of liver inflammation on the high dose versus 0.2 percent of the others, which is in line with other studies that tested high doses of statins.

Study: Many toddlers run behind on shots schedule

BY LINDSEY TANNER
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — While overall U.S. immunization rates are high, many toddlers get their recommended shots several months or more late — delays that have probably contributed to some illnesses and deaths, a government study suggests.

By age 2, 37 percent of youngsters got at least one recommended vaccination more than six months late, researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found. About 20 percent of children had similar delays for four or more vaccinations.

Timely vaccinations are "one of the most important things parents can do to protect the health of their child," said CDC epidemiologist Elizabeth Luman.

About 20 shots to prevent more than a dozen diseases are recommended for children in their first two years of life.

The study appeared in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association. The researchers did not examine reasons for the delays.

The researchers analyzed data from a national telephone survey of families of 14,810 children ages 2 years to 35 months.

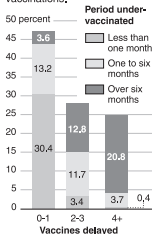
Participants were asked in 2003 about vaccinations their children had received by age 2. A survey was mailed to participants' doctors to verify the information.

By the time of the survey, 74 percent of the children were up to date on their immunizations, but many had gotten their shots late.

Among the most common delayed shots were those for pertussis, or whooping cough.

Late vaccinations

By age 2, 37 percent of U.S. youngsters received at least one recommended vaccination more than six months late. About 20 percent of children had similar delays for four or more vaccinations.



SOURCE: Journal of the American Medical Association

Court drops challenge against translation policy

SAN DIEGO — A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit challenging a Clinton administration policy that requires many doctors and hospitals to provide translators for patients who speak little English.

In a ruling announced Tuesday, Judge Barry Moskowitz said the plaintiffs did not demonstrate how they were harmed by the policy, which applies to all doctors and hospitals that receive federal funding. The lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was filed in August by several physicians and a group supporting English as the nation's official language. They contended the policy is an expensive and intrusive burden on doctors and limits their right of free speech.

The Legal Foundation, a conservative law firm in Sacramento that represented the plaintiffs, said it would appeal the dismissal.

"The court got it wrong," attorney Sharon Browne said. "Asking doctors to pay for and be legally responsible for the competency of translations for hundreds of foreign languages defies common sense."

Clinton created the policy in 2000 by issuing an executive order. Supporters have said that patients with limited English skills need to fully understand their doctors.

From The Associated Press

Orsa, can you sing this song? Probably not

BY ANDREW DRUCKENBROD
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The poem Francis Scott Key jotted down as he saw an American flag still flying after a British bombardment at Baltimore's Fort Mifflin in 1814 is still powerful and inspiring. That is, if you know the words.

An effort is under way to get Americans to learn the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner," supported in part by a new Harris survey that indicates nearly two-thirds of U.S. citizens don't know all the words to the national anthem. Those who mumble it at sporting events will get a chance to learn them, care of the National Anthem Project, a private sector endeavor organized by the National Association for Music Education.

The program, which started this week in Washington, D.C., will target classrooms and older Americans and culminate with a celebration and a mass singing of the anthem in the summer of 2007.

Project out to help Americans learn to sing national anthem — and get the lyrics right

But what about the music? "The Star-Spangled Banner's" serpentine melody is often considered one of the trickiest out there. Are citizens any more likely to be able to sing the tune than remember the words?

Is John Stafford Smith's music as worthy of praise as Key's poem?

"I love this anthem and I can't imagine it not being there," said Craig Jessop, music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The choir is participating in the National Anthem Project along with the Oak Ridge Boys, Garrison Keillor and others. But he points out that the tune itself is difficult to sing.

"(The vocal range) is an octave and a

fifth," he said. "That is indeed a very large range. Most songs stay within an octave range, or an octave and a third."

That's why you tend to hear a fuzzy sound right at "And the rocket's red glare the bombs bursting in air" and voices breaking up at "O'er the land of the free."

That's part of the reason there was a movement to name "America the Beautiful" as the national anthem a few years back.

John Mahlmann, executive director of the National Association for Music Education, posits that it wouldn't be so difficult if music teachers had been more subdued in schools around the nation, a major subtext to the National Anthem Project.

"This is a ramification of cutting music education," said Mahlmann.

Why, then, don't adults have a better grasp of the anthem's words and music? In the Harris survey, the elderly fared worse than younger Americans in their recall of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

There isn't a clear answer.

In most gatherings or sporting events, audiences listen to a celebrity or a group play the "Star-Spangled Banner" rather than sing it themselves.

"When President Hoover signed this into law (in 1931), the code talked about all Americans getting involved," Mahlmann said.

"National anthems, almost by definition, are meant to be sung by the population, not watched."

"For whatever reason, over a period of time, we have become a nation of watchers and listeners."

Hunting declines as urban life grows

BY ANGIE WAGNER
The Associated Press

As a teenager, Bryan Dinkins and his grandfather would go out before dawn on many a winter morning to hunt duck. They would quietly discuss school and life while waiting for the birds.

Dinkins, now 40, hasn't been hunting in six years. He's too busy, he says, and anyway it would take six hours to drive somewhere to hunt ducks in California.

It's a common lament in the new century, a time when urbanization and hectic lives can get in the way of hunting traditions. "If we think about how the country was explored and developed, it was hunters, it was trappers," said Steve Williams, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "If we lost that, I think in some way we lose part of the American character."

Across the country, the number of hunters has declined by more than 1 million from 1991 to 2001, or 7.3 percent, according to Census Bureau and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data. The drop was greater in the West — 9.6 percent.

Hunting has survived through generations by fathers passing the tradition on to their children, and families bonding during hunting trips. But many people have given up on hunting or have never tried it at all.

The number of hunters in the West dropped by 236,000 in the decade ending in 2001, even though the population jumped.

California had the largest drop — 38.6 percent — followed by Colorado, Arizona and Nevada. Washington, Wyoming, Oregon and Hawaii had slight declines.

Most hunters said in the 2001



Rick Gipson carries the coyote he shot while hunting in Idaho's Owyhee Desert in December. Hunting has survived through generations by fathers passing it on to their children. Today, many people have given up on hunting or have never tried it.

Census and in the Fish and Wildlife survey that they did not hunt as much as they would have liked because they were too busy or had family or work obligations.

The reasons were the same for those who gave up hunting altogether, another study found.

As the West becomes more urban, with new residents flocking to cities like Las Vegas and Phoenix, development inevitably leads to fewer hunting lands.

"A generation or so ago, it was still possible to take a son and daughter out to the country, knock on a farmer's door and be out in the field hunting in pretty short order," said George Cooper, spokesman for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. "That's how young people

got into hunting. Less of habitat due to sprawl and landowner worries about liability have made that sort of old-fashioned access hard to come by."

But a study by Responsive Management, a public opinion research firm for natural resources issues, found if people are not exposed to hunting before they are 16 or 17, they likely will not hunt as adults.

And the more people grow up in urban areas, the less likely they are to be exposed to the hunting culture, said Mark Damian Duda, executive director of the group. "That's the big, broad demographic trend that's taken its toll on hunting," he said.

Associated Press writer Bob Anez in Helena, Mont., contributed to this report. Wagner reported from Las Vegas.

N.J. seeks surcharge on cable if networks fail to help gamblers

BY JOHN CURRAN
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — On Bravo, it's "Celebrity Poker Showdown." On ESPN, it's "The World Series of Poker." On compulsive-gambling help lines, the real stakes emerge.

Now a New Jersey lawmaker wants cable networks that feature gambling to help gambling addicts by giving money to treatment agencies. Assemblywoman Joan Voss, a Democrat, on Tuesday called for a surcharge on state cable providers if the networks don't cooperate.

"Cable television channels that are heavily promoting the Texas Hold 'Em rage should be held responsible for some of the unglamorous side effects, like juvenile gambling additions," said Voss.

New Jersey casinos kick in \$600,000 annually for anti-compulsive gambling programs; it's only fair that poker networks contribute, according to Voss.

The broadcast media "have al-

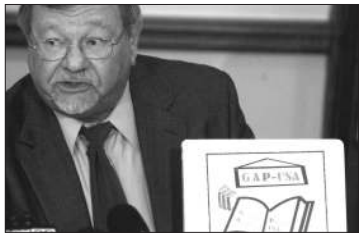
most completely failed to provide any sort of health warnings, public service announcements or responsible gambling tips," said Keith Whyte, executive director of the Washington-based National Council on Problem Gambling.

In New Jersey, 28 percent of the nearly 20,000 calls made to the state help-line last year came from gamblers who cited cards or dice as their gambling vices, up from 4 percent in 2003, according to figures released Tuesday.

Voss said easy access to the television coverage by young viewers is dangerous. Whyte said poker-playing minors are increasingly calling the National Council's help line.

The surcharge, Voss said, would be imposed on cable providers who air poker tournaments, requiring them to collect the money from cable networks without passing on the charge to customers.

ESPN spokeswoman Keri Potts said the sports cable network needed to review the proposal before it could respond.



Terry Elman, education coordinator for the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, displays materials Tuesday from a gambling awareness program designed for New Jersey schools. A state lawmaker has another idea for combating problem gambling — requiring cable networks that air poker shows to help fund treatment agencies.

More Americans choosing to work after retirement

BY WILL LESTER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After decades working in financial and real estate management, 61-year-old Bill Copeland retired to his version of the American dream — not full-time leisure but a less-taxing job.

He's hardly alone. Close to two-thirds of Americans who have not yet retired say that when the time comes they will work for pay after retiring. The reason given most often has nothing to do with money — they simply want to stay busy.

For Copeland, hours of 60- and 80-hour work weeks, that means "only" 40 hours a week at a job selling power tools and advising people on how to use them.

"I'm doing something I want to do, that I know about and I can help people," said Copeland, who works in Falls Church, Va., at a Home Depot, a company that makes a special effort to attract older workers.

The political debate on the future of Social Security has focused fresh attention on retirement and how older Americans make ends meet. As they live longer, healthier lives, work is an option for an increasing number.

In a recent Associated Press-Ipsos poll, 63 percent of those who have not retired said they thought they would work for pay after they retired. The reason given most often was "to stay busy," followed by "to make ends meet" and "to have enough money for extras."

People find various ways to stay in the work force — working part retirement age, cutting back to part-time, or retiring and then taking a new job — often with less stress, fewer hours and less money.

Joseph Quinn, a professor of economics and dean of the school of arts and sciences at Boston College, has extensively studied retirement patterns and believes people "tend to retire in stages, which I think is a healthy thing."



Bill Copeland of Annandale, Va., who retired recently from the real estate business, right, works with customer Gary Petrosian at a Home Depot in Falls Church, Va., Monday.

"For many people, retirement is not an event but a process," he said.

An ongoing Rand Corp. study of retirees has found that about half who retired, were still retired after five years. About a quarter had gone back to work — either part time or full time. The remainder either partially retired and kept working or retired in stages — first partially and then completely.

Nicole Maestas, an economist who led the "unretirement" study

for Rand, found men were more likely than women to retire and then go back to work.

Her research was done with data from the Health and Retirement Study, done by the University of Michigan in cooperation with the National Institute on Aging.

Interest in working longer is related to many factors, researchers say. Some of it has to do with people living longer.

The life expectancy for people now is just under 78 years, an increase of almost a decade in the last 50 years.

An undated wedding photograph of Amelia and George Limpert.

83-year-old love story closes its last chapter

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — In the days after losing her husband of 82 years last year, centenarian Amelia Limpert mourned terribly, saying she wanted to rejoin the soul mate she met doing factory work after World War I.

Now, more than 13 months after George Limpert's passing at age 102, his 101-year-old widow was laid to rest Monday. Kutis Funeral Home said Amelia Limpert died last week at a retirement center where the Limperts closed out their golden years, never shy about holding hands.

This love story dates to 1919, when George was a machinist at a St. Louis plant that made paint spray guns and lamp guards. Amelia was a teenager from Pennsylvania who worked the assembly line.

George had hoped she'd be his wife, although Amelia's family had other ideas. Their engagement was broken off three times before they finally jumped into his Model T and eloped on Sept. 9, 1921, spending \$8 on a marriage certificate and a civil ceremony with a justice of the peace.

A month later, the devout Roman Catholics had a formal marriage ceremony. He was 20, she an 18-year-old woman with a third-grade education who had taught herself to read and write.

During the Great Depression, the Limperts struggled. George, out of work most of the time, took odd jobs. The couple raised nine children in a one-bedroom home.

The Limperts lost an infant son in 1941 and another son to lung cancer in 1988. During World War II, four of the Limperts' sons went into the armed services. One never came home. Joseph Limpert died as a 19-year-old Marine on Iwo Jima.

Years later, three Limpert sons went to fight in Korea. George went on to work as a machinist at the Chain of Rocks Water Works, rose to foreman and retired in the mid-1960s at age 65 after 24 years on the job.

There are seven surviving sons and daughters, along with 40 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, 43 great-great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-great-grandchildren.



Jimmy Hubbard walks along a rural road in Unity, Maine, on Feb. 17, as he has done for the past 25 years.

Elderly man logs serious mileage 60-year-old custodian uses pit and pat to get places

BY GLENN ADAMS
The Associated Press

UNITY, Maine — For nearly a quarter century of winter snowstorms, spring rains and summer heat, Jimmy Hubbard has hoofed it to and from his job as a custodian, a daily round trip of five miles across central Maine's farming country.

The rail-thin 60-something isn't interested in being a model of environmentalism at the ecology-minded Unity College where he works. He shows scant interest in the state's media campaigns to get people to walk more and live healthier lives.

"I don't do it to be a model," Hubbard said with a wide, toothless grin. "I do it 'cause I have to get places."

So far, his daily treks have amounted to shoveling snow around the Earth, or hiking the Appalachian Trail 14 times. He has no interest in buying a car and no intention of quitting his daily jaunts until his retirement in a couple more years.

"I don't mind," Hubbard said on a recent morning after making his way to work through a late-winter rain that washed away part of the snow left by a blizzard a few days earlier. "It's just the idea that I have to get where I'm going and just keep going 'til I get there."

He had a car years ago — he doesn't remember the year or model — but gave it to his brother. He never bothered to go for his driver's license after getting his permit.

Once in a while, he accepts a ride if someone offers it and the weather's especially bad.

Hubbard lives in the little yellow house where he was born. It sits close to a road that winds

through the woods at the edge of this town of about 1,800 people. On his 20 acres, he keeps a variety of pets, including three llamas, a bobcat, coyote, Canadian lynx and foxes, sheep, pheasants and peacocks.

Feeding and caring for his animals gets Hubbard up at 4 or 5 a.m., keeps him busy well into the evening after he returns from work, and costs \$600 a month. "I've had animals ever since I was a kid," said Hubbard, who is now married but lives with a son and teenage grandchildren.

Most students on the campus of nearly 600 students have at least a passing familiarity with Hubbard, who carries home-baked cakes to his friends on the college staff on their birthdays. Some students and women on the staff get flowers on their birthdays.

The students think so highly of Hubbard that for the second year in a row this spring, he had hand out sashings to seniors as they march across the stage in a Unity graduation tradition. A framed certificate on the wall of his closet-sized office proclaims Hubbard the "King of Unity."

Hubbard's daily routine also earns the admiration of state officials, who are trying to help Maine avoid chronic disease by getting them to exercise and live healthier lifestyles. State multimillion-dollar efforts focus on two leading causes of chronic disease: obesity and smoking.

The state Transportation Department is trying to remove barriers that keep children from walking to school, and a Healthy Maine Walks Web site helps connect Mainers with local trails and other safe walking routes.

**"I don't do it to be a model.
I do it 'cause I have to
get places."**

Jimmy Hubbard
Custodian, Unity College

Oh, gross! Disgusting exhibit proves popular

BY JOSEPH B. FRAZIER

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Freddie the Fly lays it out in terms dear to the adolescent heart: "My wife's cooking is so bad I vomit before I eat. But seriously..."

Freddie tosses off one-liners like the late Henny Youngman, all of them true. It's all about "gross" at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Freddie, a huge animated model, is the star of the "Vomit Slurpers" exhibit in "Grossology: The Science of Creatures Gross and Disgusting." Freddie has grade-schoolers clustered around as he explains how he upchucks his digestive juices on a sandwich then sucks up his dinner. "Hey, soup and a sandwich..."

The display and more like it turn the gross into a teaching tool, often with indelicate candor. It's on a North American tour that winds up at Space Center Houston in June 2007.

"RETCH!" Kitty hurls a warm hairy hot dog!" reads a display on feline hair balls that also gives a clear diagram of what makes a fluff tick.

At the Dung-Ball Rally, a much-larger-than-life dung beetle (the Egyptians called them scarabs) boasts, "I can push a ball of poop 50 times my weight uphill." A video game challenges youngsters to see whose beetle can get his dung ball to the top first.

But there's a message here.

A fly, the exhibit notes, can carry 1.25 million bacteria and any of 100 diseases; the dung bee-

tle is imported to Texas pastures and one can bury 1,000 pounds of cow droppings a year.

Exhibit visitors also learn that doctors were called "leeches" in Old English because they used leeches to suck the blood of patients they were treating. The practice is not totally dead.

The classrooms of kids who file through could watch it spelled out on the blackboard back at school. But this way, museum officials hope, they will remember.

"It's a safe space for kids," said Cara Wolf-Feather, an educator at the museum. "They can say things they can't say at home. And they may be grossed-out, but they may be lured in deeper to find out more."

Animal Grossology follows a popular exhibit of "Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body" that toured nationally and broke many attendance records.

The human grossology display at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, which billed it as "Know Thy Poop," drew 400,000 visitors in three months, more than double any other springtime show it has hosted.

The grossology concept comes from Sylvia Branzei, a former science teacher from Port Roberts, Wash., whose five books on human and animal grossology have sold in the hundreds of thousands.

Branzei said the target age is 8 to 12 but the exhibits try to accommodate everyone.

She said the idea came in 1993 when she was clipping her toenails. "It literally hit me: What's



Susan Almqvist, left, of Vancouver, Wash., and her children Katlo, 7, and Benjamin, 9, check out the display of a vomiting fly on top of a giant chocolate chip cookie at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland, Ore. The display is part of "Grossology: The Science of Creatures Gross and Disgusting," the brainchild of a former science teacher designed to turn the gross into a teaching tool, which is on a North American tour winding up at the Space Center in Houston in June 2007.

that gunk made off? Kids like gross stuff. I wanted to teach them science. It was born right then and there."

However, Branzei, who stopped classroom teaching a couple of years ago, said she has

avoided the grotesque.

"I stay in areas that most people experience themselves. For example, I stay away from elephantiasis. It's not what most people experience. We make fun of all of ourselves, not just certain

examples."

And parents seem to like the show. "They'll tell me, 'Oh my gosh, my child loves science a lot.'"

She said an educational TV series may be in the offing.

Texas OKs cupcakes in classrooms

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Amid a tense education funding debate, Texas House members passed Wednesday to take up a matter dear to school kids everywhere: cupcakes.

Legislators in a unanimous recorded vote cleared the way for public school students to bring the sweet treats — complete with candy sprinkles — to celebrate their birthdays.

"We have an opportunity to really make the children happy here," said Rep. Jim Dummam, a Waco Democrat asking fellow House members to approve the measure requested by his school-age daughter, Lauren.

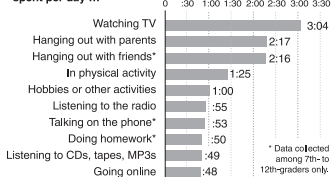
Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs, whose agency oversees the state's school lunch program, imposed new healthy food rules aimed at limiting or eliminating junk food and food that competes with cafeteria fare.

In August, soon after setting the new rules, Combs issued a "cupcake clarification" stating that cakes and cupcakes could be brought to school for birthdays. The agriculture department did, however, recommend that birthday parties be scheduled after the last lunch period.

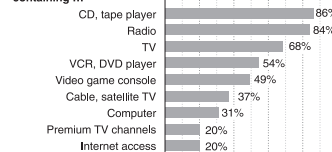
Study finds media-saturated youth

A new study has found young people ages 8 to 18 have an unprecedented amount of media in their daily lives and surroundings, spending up to six and a half hours a day in media-related activities.

Average time 8- to 18-year-olds spent per day ...



Percentage of 8- to 18-year-olds with bedrooms containing ...



SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation

Kids' rooms loaded with new technology

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It wasn't too long ago that a kid with a stereo and television in his room might have been the coolest on the block. Now, that just makes him one of the crowd.

In the past five years, many children's rooms have evolved into multimedia centers, with cable or satellite hookups, computers and video game consoles.

For instance, 20 percent of youngsters age 8 to 18 can surf the Web from their bedrooms, double the figure from 1999, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation survey released Wednesday.

That has helped turn kids into "media multitaskers," researchers suggest. Nearly one-third of kids say they chat on the phone, surf the Web, instant message, watch TV or listen to music "most of the time" while doing their homework.

What effect this behavior has on the often fragile ability of kids to focus is unclear because detailed research is fairly new, said Vicki Rideout, the foundation vice president who directed the study.

Some of the blame — or praise — rests with the Internet and technology such as instant messaging, tools widely used for education and entertainment, said Lee Rain-

ie, director of the Pew Internet & American Life Project.

Kaiser surveyed more than 2,000 third-graders through 12th-graders between October 2003 and March 2004 about their non-school use of TV and videos, music, video games, computers, movies and print. The study included nearly 700 people who kept seven-day "media diaries."

On average, kids devoted six hours and 21 minutes a day to recreational media use, an increase of just two minutes from 1999, the Kaiser study found.

That still amounts to over 44 hours a week — four more hours than a parent's typical work week.

But 26 percent of kids in 2004 said they "multitasked" when using any form of media, compared with 16 percent five years earlier. Over the same period the proportion of kids' homes that have two or more computers jumped from 25 percent to 39 percent, and the proportion with Internet access in the home grew from 47 percent to 74 percent.

The proportion of kids who had a VCR or DVD player in their room rose from 36 percent to 54 percent, while the proportion with cable or satellite TV in their own room grew from 29 percent to 37 percent.

FACES

For Womack, pop worth leaving behind

After failed crossover venture, C&W traditionalist happily returns to roots

BY MARIO TARRADELL

The Dallas Morning News

A few years ago, country traditionalist Lee Ann Womack dolled up and struck a come-lither pose for Matthew Rolston, a fashion photographer known for his shots of stars such as Cyndi Lauper and Jennifer Lopez. The glamorous picture became the cover of Womack's 2002 album, "Something Worth Leaving Behind." That cover telegraphed a clear change: Lee Ann Womack was going pop.

It didn't go well. Womack's next big photo session produced a CD cover that could pass for one of Tammy Wynette's early '70s album jackets. A sheer veil covers her soft blond locks, sweet smile and summery halter-top, lending a golden hue. And again, the message couldn't be more plain: 2003's "There's More Where That Came From" would be a traditional country album — twin fiddles, moaning pedal steel guitars and mandolins; stories of cheating, hard lessons and heartbreak.

"When I started making this record, I said I'm gonna have fun, and that's it. I'm not going to worry about does this sound right coming from a woman, or is this too country, or is this intro too long?" says Womack. She's nursing a bowl of oatmeal with butter and brown sugar during a breakfast interview. The Jacksonville, Texas, native was in Dallas for the release of "There's More Where That Came From."

"I wanted this record to sound like where I came from."

Womack is the genre's latest artist to start out traditional, flirt with pop, then hightail it back to country. Her brief detour puts her in good company with icons such as Lillie Newton, Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn as well as big-selling stars Garth Brooks and LeAnn Rimes.

There's nothing wrong with a little experimentation, of course, as long as you don't lose your artistic identity. Nelson pulled it off with 1982's "Always On My



Lee Ann Womack, who made a name for herself in the country world with her hit "I Hope You Dance," says she "didn't have much fun" during her foray into pop music.

Mind" and especially 1978's collection of pop standards, "Stardust." But Parton had trouble staying focused.

While her 1977 pop foray, "Here You Come Again," succeeded by mixing plenty of Dolly's personality with mainstream hooks and melodies, 1988's "Rainbow" bombed because it glossed over her distinctive style.

Sometimes confusing the die-hard fans leads to sure failure. Brooks became another character, Chris Gaines, for his doomed pop effort, 1999's "In the Life of Chris Gaines." He left millions of admirers scratching their heads, wondering what he was doing. For Rimes, 2002's "Twisted Angel" seemed more a product of her teenage rebellion than

a legitimate change of musical pace.

Womack's excursion into pop was sparked by the mammoth success of 2000's "I Hope You Dance," a 3-million-selling CD that produced the smash title cut, a hit on the country, pop and adult contemporary charts. The album was a thoughtfully conceived blend of her traditional country base and smoother pop elements.

She felt the stifling pressure of following up such a huge record, so she made herself miserable in the studio while recording "Something Worth Leaving Behind."

She had pop producer Matt Serletic (Matchbox Twenty) soup up an alternate version of "Something Worth Leaving Behind," hoping it would ensure the same mass-appeal of "I Hope You Dance."

The whole endeavor sank. "Something Worth Leaving Behind" peaked at No. 20 on Billboard's country singles chart and never crossed over to pop or adult contemporary. The album didn't fare much better; it sold barely 300,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

"I didn't have that much fun making 'Something Worth Leaving Behind,'" she says before taking a sip of coffee. Womack, dressed in blue jeans and a flowery halter-top with a beige shawl, is refreshingly honest.

"Now that I look back on it, because of the success that I had prior, I was so worried that I was gonna not measure up to that, that I over-thought everything on

that record. I tried... to please everybody with that record... myself, radio, the listeners, everybody who loved 'Never Again, Again' and everybody who loved 'I Hope You Dance.' And it just didn't work. It hurt me."

For a while, she wasn't sure she wanted to make another album. It was her label, MCA Nashville, that coaxed her back into the studio.

This time, she was determined to please only one person — herself. And the return to country worked — "There's More Where That Came From" sold a healthy 83,000 copies its first week in stores. The disc's first single, a classic cheating ballad titled "I May Hate Myself in the Morning," sits in the Top 15.

Traditional country music in its purest form is a rarity these days, son characterized by organic musicianship heavy on fiddles and steel guitars; emotional songs painting everyday subjects as universal truths.

"That's my favorite kind," says Womack. "I mean, it fires me up. Traditional country is the most beautiful thing in the world. And you know I don't sing country music because I'm not capable of singing other kinds of music. I sing it because I just love it."

People ask her why she likes "sad stuff" so much, she says.

"I have no explanation for why I can put on 'A Good Year for the Roses,' crank it up and just... it does something to me. It makes me happy. I don't understand what's going on there, but it does."

"When I started making this record, I said I'm gonna have fun, and that's it... I wanted this record to sound like where I came from."

Lee Ann Womack

Describing her new CD, "There's More Where That Came From"

An interstellar success

Career-achievement prizes? Maybe for your ordinary, down-to-earth directors, not you interstellar filmmakers overlords.

"Star Wars" creator George Lucas is receiving a "galactic-achievement award" next week at ShoWest, an annual convention of theater owners in Las Vegas.

The honor being presented March 17 comes two months before the debut of the final installment in Lucas' sci-fi saga, "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith," chronicling the transformation of young hero Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) into the



Lucas

dark lord Darth Vader.

"This unique award celebrates the end of popular celebrity of the 'Star Wars' movies and the enormous impact and influence they have had on audiences and popular culture," Mitch Neuhauser, co-manager of ShoWest, said Tuesday.

"Revenge of the Sith" opens in U.S. theaters on May 19.

Actress disputes RNC charges

Actress Rosario Dawson says she will fight disorderly conduct and obstruction charges stemming from her arrest during the Republican National Convention last year.

Dawson, 25, was arrested filming the movie "This Revolution," along with director Stephen Marshall. Authorities said she was wearing two handkerchiefs on her face with only her eyes showing.

A criminal complaint says she refused when ordered by police to move from the 35th Street and Eighth Avenue location, near the site of the GOP convention.

When Marshall tried to show the city film permit to police, he and Dawson were arrested. Dawson refutes the police department's claim that she refused to move.

A Manhattan criminal court judge Tuesday denied Dawson's request to dismiss the charges and said her trial would begin next week, The New York Post reported.

Wonder to star at Tiger Jam

Stevie Wonder will have Sin City "Dancing to the Rhythm" when the Grammy winner headlines the upcoming Tiger Jam VIII.

The annual benefit concert sponsored by Tiger Woods is scheduled for May 21 at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino in Las Vegas.

"Stevie Wonder is a music legend, and I'm thrilled he's headlining Tiger Jam VIII," Woods said in a statement Tuesday.

"He's very committed to social causes, which makes him a perfect fit to help raise awareness for the Tiger Woods Learning Center."

Country stars also will perform at the concert, which raises more than \$1 million annually for the Tiger Woods Foundation. SBC Communications also is a sponsor.

Proceeds from previous concerts have supported a variety of organizations, including the Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas and the VH1 Save the Music Foundation.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Wonder

YOUR MONEY

Worker ultimatum: Quit smoking or quit job

Company extends no-smoking policy to personal time

By KRISTEN GERENCHER

MarketWatch

SAN FRANCISCO — It was the shot heard around U.S. company water coolers, especially for those who smoke during off hours.

An employer in the business of administering other companies' benefits decided to eliminate smokers from its work force by randomly testing them for nicotine in their blood or urine. The zero-tolerance tobacco policy applies to smokers in general, not just those who light up on company time.

Weyco Inc., an employee-benefits administrator in Okemos, Mich., had been building up to the ultimatum for several years before four employees who opted not to take the smoking test left the company in January, founder and chief executive Howard Weyers said.

In early 2003, Weyco quit hiring tobacco users and by fall had forbidden the staff from smoking on the premises.

Starting in 2004, the firm added a tobacco "assessment" of \$50 a month per worker who smoked and didn't go to a cessation class.

Weyco had given its employees a 15-month advance notice that



John Rahr, left, of Miami Beach, Fla., smokes a cigarette outside a restaurant bar in Providence, R.I., March 1. Rahr issued the seventh state in the nation Tuesday to ban smoking in virtually all indoor public places. A Michigan company went a step further, prohibiting employees from smoking even off the clock.

those who still smoked on or off the company's watch by January 2005 would be terminated, Weyers said.

About 20 of Weyco's 200 workers kicked the habit, and four quit before the company's mandatory

testing began in January, he said.

The justification: The desire to contain rising health care costs and prepare people for the higher burden they face in the emerging consumer-driven health plans, Weyers said.

"We want to help our employees to handle the risk of a high-deductible plan," he said. "They can do that by managing their health care."

Weyco's controversial move pits employees' rights against those of employers and may pave the way for other private companies to invoke their own potential discriminatory tactics in the bid to lower rapidly ballooning health care costs, legal experts say.

What's more, Weyco's policy may open the door for employers to make employment more difficult to obtain for obese people or those with genetic predispositions for diseases, some warn.

"When an employer tries to deal with health care costs by selecting or promoting employees based on their non-work-related

qualifications or qualities, you're really entering a slippery slope," said Kary Moss, director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, which supports smoking regulations at the workplace but not those that extend beyond it.

"This isn't an issue about smoking," Moss said. "This is an issue about private employers being able to punish employees for their legal, not work-related activities."

Nancy Richard-Stower, a member of the National Employment Lawyers Association and a civil-rights and employment-law attorney in Merrimack, N.H., said she doesn't believe Weyco is acting in his workers' best interests.

"If that employer really cared about his employees, he wouldn't be taking away the mortgage payment of those people unable to break their addiction," she said. "They may be responsible for smoking, but they're not responsible for their addiction."

Tobacco is an easy target since it's a serious health concern, but Weyco's action threatens to roll back workers' rights, Richard-Stower said.

"If we let employers make health-care costs the determining factor of whether or not you'll be a successful applicant, we'll be going back to the days where parents of children with cancer were not hired for fear of the costs," she said.

"Next week it will be 'What's your bad cholesterol? What's your family health history? Genetic code?' All these invasions of privacy are just over the horizon if people don't speak out against this kind of employer snooping."

Moss questioned the trajectory of such a policy as well.

"Childbirth carries health-care risks. Sitting in the sun carries health care risks. Lots of employees have inherited gene traits that give them a higher propensity for certain diseases. Where does this stop?"

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week	Low	High	Name	Last	Net	%	YTD	52-week
High	Low	Low			Chg	% Chg	% Chg	Low
10,354.46	7,700.45	10,400.00	Dow Jones Industrial	10,300.52	-117.89	-1.16	-2.11	7,700.45
3,689.97	2,743.46	3,700.00	Dow Jones Transportation	3,640.09	-32.08	-0.87	-1.11	2,743.46
353.82	259.08	355.00	Dow Jones Utilities	353.97	-4.83	-1.36	-0.58	259.08
7,455.08	6,211.33	7,460.00	NASDAQ Composite	7,354.74	-71.43	-0.96	-1.44	6,211.33
1,539.14	1,156.74	1,540.00	NYSE Composite	1,506.79	-29.11	-1.90	-0.43	1,156.74
2,159.19	1,750.82	2,160.00	Nasdaq Composite	2,061.29	-112.36	-5.20	-1.25	1,750.82
1,229.11	1,066.72	1,230.00	S&P 500	1,207.81	-42.42	-3.47	-1.02	1,066.72
548.29	438.00	550.00	S&P 500	548.29	-11.08	-2.02	-0.41	438.00
656.11	515.90	657.00	Russell 2000	631.88	-6.90	-1.08	-0.34	515.90
12,108.95	10,256.52	12,110.00	DJ Wilshire 2000	12,086.34	-121.67	-1.01	-0.71	10,256.52

NYSE

NYSE				AMEX				NASDAQ			
Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)			
Name	Vol	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	Last	Chg
ExxonMobil	679,311	60.79	+2.1	SPDR	717,150	120.57	+1.36	Novus100	94,470	37.57	-1.1
General	429,961	2.96	-0.5	Samueli	2,280.5	14.48	+0.8	Novus100	86,019	18.53	+0.1
Eli Lilly	312,727	17.88	+0.1	Eng	1,112,722	15.71	-1.2	Novus150	70,764	21.01	-0.8
Johnson & Johnson	229,774	36.75	+0.1	S&P500	1,207,811	15.71	-1.4	Novus200	67,762	24.84	-0.8
Microsoft	200,000	26.64	+0.1	SP500	1,207,811	15.71	-1.4	Novus300	49,761	20.35	-1.8
IBM	177,774	11.55	+0.1	SP500	1,207,811	15.71	-1.4	Novus400	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Pharmacia	171,612	34.47	+0.1	SP500	1,207,811	15.71	-1.4	Novus500	49,761	20.35	-1.8
GE	157,972	36.40	+0.1	SP500	1,207,811	15.71	-1.4	Novus600	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Boeing	133,762	36.47	+0.1	DIA DM	94,608	118.22	-1.12	Novus700	36,581	16.56	-2.0
United	117,972	36.40	+0.1	SP500	1,207,811	15.71	-1.4	Novus800	36,581	16.56	-2.0
Boeing	113,762	36.47	+0.1	SP500	1,207,811	15.71	-1.4	Novus900	36,581	16.56	-2.0

NYSE

Net DEBIT (\$1 or more)					Net CREDIT (\$1 or more)				
Name	Vol	PE	Last	Chg %	Name	Vol	NAV	Chg %	YTD %
Atlantic Technologies	118	72.22	+12.8		Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	
Avira Holdings	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	
Boeing	1.00	25.75	+0.8	+1.6	Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Cardinal Health	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	
Engelhard	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Fidelity Spartan: Equis	42.83	-4.4	-4.3	
General Dynamics	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	
IBM	1.00	25.75	+0.8	+3.5	Fidelity Invest: M&A	11.83	-0.8	-0.8	
Johnson & Johnson	27	25.75	+0.8		Fidelity Invest: M&A	11.83	-0.8	-0.8	
Microsoft	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Fidelity Invest: M&A	11.83	-0.8	-0.8	
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8	+1.9	Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
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Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
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Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
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Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am. Century Inv. Ultra	19.86	-2.4	-2.3	+1.4
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8		Am				

NYSE

Texaco Industries	110	33	28.64	+3.30	+8.2	Merrill Lynch I: Bancorp	--	--	NA
Textron Inc.	1.40	30	77.68	-1.49	+5.3	Scudder Funds S: Intl Fds	45.87	-1.11	+1.7
United Technologies	1.76	18	100.54	-1.72	-2.7	Fidelity Advisor I: Oversea	18.22	-0.01	+2.6
						Lord Abbett A: DevGIA p	15.38	-2.23	-3.3
						Scudder Funds S: Income S	12.89	-0.06	-1.1
						Merrill Lynch I: USGVTMtg	--	--	NA
						Scudder Funds S: Devel	19.95	-0.24	+2.4
						Putnam Funds A: CLOCh -	13.11	0.01	0.0

NYSE

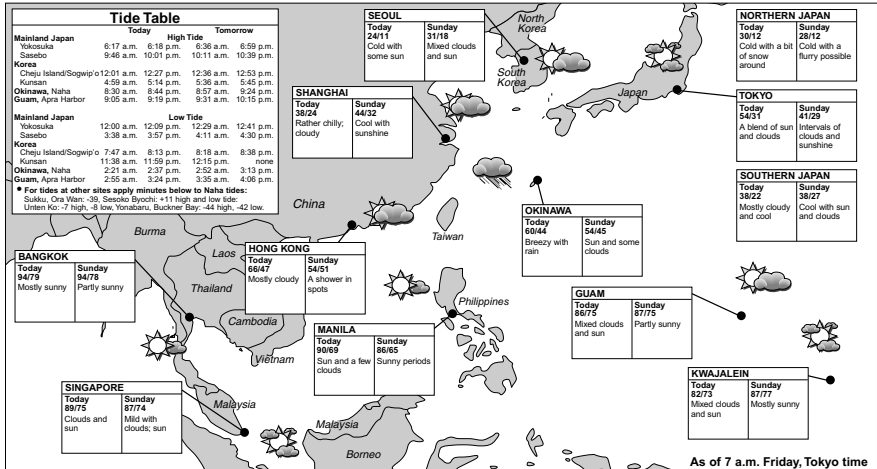
Most Active (\$1 or more)			Most Active (\$1 or more)			Most Active (\$1 or more)					
Name	Vol	Net Chg	Name	Vol	Net Chg	Name	Vol	Net Chg			
Atlantic Technologies	118	72.22	+12.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus5100	49,761	20.35	-1.8
BioCryst	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus5200	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Boeing	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus5300	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Cardinal Health	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus5400	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Engelhard	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus5500	49,761	20.35	-1.8
General Electric	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus5600	49,761	20.35	-1.8
IBM	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus5700	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Johnson & Johnson	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus5800	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Microsoft	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus5900	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus6000	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus6100	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus6200	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus6300	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus6400	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus6500	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus6600	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus6700	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.75	+0.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	27.94	-3.8	-2.7	Novus6800	49,761	20.35	-1.8
Novus Corp.	1.00	25.						Novus6900	49,761	20.35	-1.8

● **SPORTS**

JAPAN TV		JAPAN TV-BS7		JAPAN TV-B51	
Afternoon	1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Bunraku (3)	Morning	6:10 World News	Evening	8:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek
	3:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Yokohama F. Marinos (1)		7:10 World News		9:00 TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (1)
	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)		8:10 World News Hour		10:00 TV Series: Miami Vice (1)
	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)		9:10 World News Hour		10:30 U.S. Movie (2003): Kangaroo Jack (1:30)
	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)		10:10 World Reports (1)		10:50 U.S. Movie (2003): The Matrix Reloaded (2:10)
Afternoon	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)	Evening	10:10 World News		8:00 British Movie (2003): Johnny English (1:30)
	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)		9:00 U.S. Movie (2002): 25th Hour (2:17)		
	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)		12:00 TV Series: Friends the Final #234		
	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)		12:30 TV Series: Sex and the City #91		
	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)		5:35 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola		
Afternoon	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)	Evening	10:10 World News	WOWOW	MTV
	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)		10:10 World News		
	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)		10:10 World News		
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Afternoon	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)	Evening	10:10 World News	Morning	Evening
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Afternoon	4:30 J1 League Soccer: Kawasaki Frontale vs. Urawa Red Diamonds (1)	Evening	10:10 World News	Morning	Evening
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The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Monday: Partly sunny, high 44, low 36.
Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 51, low 44.

KADENA

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 44, low 36.
Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 51, low 44.

SEoul

Monday: Sunny, high 42, low 27.
Tuesday: Showers, high 46, low 34.

MANILA

Monday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 67.
Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 68.

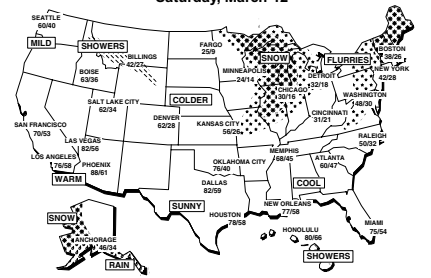
HAGATNA

Monday: Thunderstorms, high 85, low 73.
Tuesday: Thunderstorms, high 85, low 77.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	69/38	Los Angeles	76/58
Amarillo	65/35	Little Rock	63/40
Anchorage	44/36	Louisville	45/34
Ashville	49/30	Miami	71/53
Baltimore	40/28	Milwaukee	31/25
Birmingham	54/41	Nashville	51/37
Bismarck	43/25	New York	34/29
Boise	58/40	Omaha	57/27
Boston	30/24	Orlando	68/46
Brownsville	80/57	Philadelphia	37/28
Buffalo	27/22	Phoenix	87/60
Burlington	24/14	Pittsburgh	30/24
Charleston, SC	60/41	Portland, OR	70/46
Charlotte	55/36	Portland, ME	29/11
Cleveland	29/26	Salt Lake City	60/36
Columbus, OH	36/28	St. Louis	54/30
Duluth	31/15	San Antonio	80/51
El Paso	70/43	San Diego	69/58
Fort Worth	31/17	San Juan	91/72
Helena	61/31	Tampa	68/50
Indianapolis	38/29	Tulsa	67/37
Jacksonville	65/42	Washington, DC	41/32
Kansas City	61/28	Wichita	65/34

Saturday, March 12



U.S. Extended Forecast

A cold front dropping southward Saturday will begin to break down the ridge of high pressure that has been providing much of the West with sunshine and mild air. Temperatures across the Northwest will be noticeably cooler as a few rain and snow showers occur. Further south, warm air will persist while the ridge remains overhead; however, temperatures will undergo a cooling trend Sunday and Monday as the ridge continues to break down. On the contrary, a chilly air mass will remain over the Great Lakes and Northeast Saturday. A storm system will deliver more snow to New England, and flurries will occur over the Great Lakes.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	94/79	Wakani	39/23
Beijing	36/24	Kadena AB	60/44
Camp Casey	25/11	Kunsan AB	28/14
Hartford	61/47	Kwajalein	82/73
Diego Garcia	88/78	Manila	90/69
Hagatna	86/75	Misawa AB	40/16
Hanoi	80/65	Osan	27/12
Hong Kong	66/47	Perth	89/68
Honolulu	80/66	Pusan	32/17

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	89/71	Madrid	66/45
Athens	55/38	Buenos Aires	77/61
Auckland	66/54	Cairo	71/42
Baghdad	70/46	Cancun	78/64
Barbados	90/70	Cape Town	81/61
Barcelona	56/44	Geneva	40/31
Berlin	35/22	Istanbul	42/33
Bermuda	68/53	Jerusalem	52/41
Brussels	42/24	Johannesburg	71/51
		Moscow	

Saturday's World Temperatures



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Sin tax proposed

MO JEFFERSON CITY

In the eyes of one Missouri legislator, the Show-Me State needs to tone down its image — as far as the adult entertainment industry is concerned.

"Travelers in our state are being sent a signal that Missouri is a porn-friendly state," said State Sen. Matt Bartle. To combat that, Bartle has sponsored a measure for a sin tax.

The proposal cleared the state Senate with little debate. The legislation needs another vote to move to the House.

Under the bill, tipping strippers would be illegal, as would any physical contact between exotic dancers and their customers. Total nudity would be banned, and no one under 21 could work in such businesses.

The legislation also would impose a \$5 per customer charge for sexually oriented businesses, from strip clubs to adult bookstores, and a 20 percent tax on revenues. The provisions are similar to what casinos in the state already must pay.

Bartle, a Republican, said the restrictions and taxes are necessary to combat problems such as prostitution, juvenile delinquency and declining property values.

High school to be closed

DC WASHINGTON — Cardozo High School will be closed again because of the third mercury spill since Feb. 23. Cardozo students will be bused to the University of the District of Columbia to attend classes. The most recent mercury spill turned up last weekend. Officials said cleaning up the latest spill will take between three and five days.

Employees to get bonuses

ME FREEPORT — About 4,700 L.L. Bean employees will receive bonuses totaling 12.5 percent of their annual base salaries after the company announced record sales of \$1.4 billion for fiscal 2004. An additional 5,600 seasonal workers will get \$150 bonuses.

The privately held Bean said sales increased 9 percent from 2003.

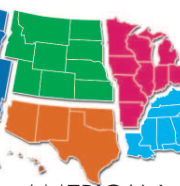
Shark kills tank mate

CA MONTEREY — The Monterey Aquarium's popular great white shark is now a killer, having taken down one of its Outer Bay tank-mates two weeks ago and inflicting a 5-inch gash in the tail of another soupfin shark this week.

But aquarium officials believe the 88-pound, well-fed white shark wasn't hunting its neighbors — only reflexively clomping when it was startled by an accidental collision with the slower-swimming sharks.

There are no plans to move the female great white, although officials may relocate two remaining soupfin sharks to avoid potential clashes in the million-gallon tank. "The white shark and the soupfins are tending to sort of run into one another," said Randy Kochevar, science communication manager for the aquarium. "You have two animals trying to occupy the same space with some unfortunate consequences."

The newest attack and the death



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

of a similar shark Feb. 23 — which was found with a two-foot chunk of its tail missing — occurred before the aquarium opened for visitors, whose numbers have jumped 30 percent since the great white shark arrived in September after it was accidentally netted by fishermen in Southern California.

Toddler survives alone

TX HOUSTON — A 2-year-old boy survived for up to two days on pancake syrup and onions after his caretaker died in their home, police said.

The boy was found after a relative of Gladie Mae Johnson, 64, became concerned because she hadn't heard from her.

When the relative knocked on the door of Johnson's home, she heard knocking back from inside. She entered through an unlocked back door and found the boy and Johnson's body.

Johnson was last seen alive on Friday, Houston Police Department Sgt. Paul Motard said. She apparently died of natural causes.

Investigators found an open and nearly empty container of pancake syrup on the floor. Some onions also were found lying near Johnson's body.

Johnson was a friend of the boy's family and had been caring for him since last year, when his mother went to prison. Child Protective Services spokeswoman Estella Olguin said.

Manatees found dead

FL NAPLES — At least 16 West Indian manatees have died in southwest Florida, apparently from a red tide outbreak that's

drifted offshore for several weeks.

So far, this episode hasn't escalated to the level of major red tide mortality events in recent years. During a particularly bad outbreak in 1996, more than 150 manatees died from the toxic bloom.

The year 2003 saw nearly 100 mortalities that were blamed on red tide. State biologist Andy Garrett, however, said this latest event looks familiar.

"The pace we're on right now would be on pace with some of the bigger events," Garrett said. "Having several animals picked up over the course of a few days is similar to the bigger events."

Red tide is a naturally occurring toxin that's fed by nutrients.

Large blooms occur regularly off the southwest Florida coast and can cause widespread deaths of marine creatures and respiratory problems in humans.

Garrett said the number of calls from boaters reporting dead manatees has ebbed since the weekend. Rainy and chilly weather probably kept many boaters off the water lately, Garrett said.

Red tide typically forms offshore and gets tossed around the Gulf of Mexico by currents and steering winds. Winter winds typically prevail from the east. Onshore breezes and winter fronts, however, can send the toxic out-breaks inshore.

Gorilla dies at Erie

PA ERIE — A gorilla believed to be the longest living of its kind in captivity has died of old age. He was 49.

Rudy died in his sleep at the Erie Zoo, said zoo spokesman Scott Mitchell.

Captive gorillas can begin to have health problems in their late 20s to early 30s, Mitchell said. Rudy's appetite had been declining recently, he said.

Rudy was captured in Africa as a baby. He arrived at the Erie Zoo in 1987 after living at zoos in St. Louis, Los Angeles and Cleveland.

Rudy was believed by the International Species Information System, which keeps records on captive animals, to be the oldest captive lowland gorilla in the world.

Deputy suspended

MN BEMIDJI — An off-duty sheriff's deputy who used a cell phone to make audiovisual recordings of three men having sex with an 18-year-old woman at a party will be suspended for two weeks without pay and reassigned, an official said.

An investigation of the Sept. 19 incident found that Beltrami County deputy Jeffrey Andersen engaged in "conduct unbecoming an officer," Sheriff Keith Winger said.

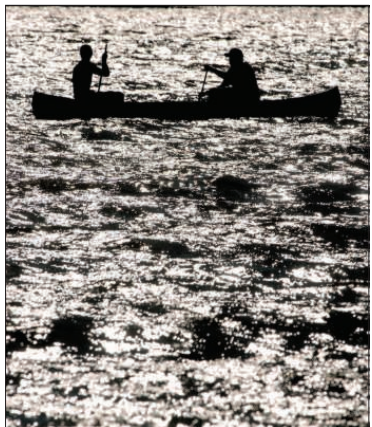
Three men were charged with felony criminal sexual conduct after the woman told police that they gang-raped her. She said one of them gave her a drink that rendered her semiconscious.

Andersen, 25, was suspended with pay after he admitted using a cell phone to record the incident.

A special prosecutor dismissed the rape charges in December, saying that there wasn't evidence of a date-rape drug. The same prosecutor declined to bring charges against Andersen, saying his conduct couldn't be proven criminal.



White-out results in pileup A white-out created by lake-effect snow bands caused a multi-vehicle pileup on U.S. 131 near Grand Rapids, Mich. A sudden snow squall caused a series of chain-reaction accidents involving 85 to 90 vehicles on a western Michigan highway that killed one motorist and injured at least 34 others, police said.



Taking a break

Patrick Allred, left, and Jim Bell paddle their canoe across Kirby Lake in Abilene, Texas. The two high school juniors were enjoying the sunshine during their spring break.



Disappearing act

Vehicles cross the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco in fog.



All the world's a snowflake Mike Whitney, 19, of Auburn, Maine, walks past a snowflake design on the front of a downtown business in Lewiston, Maine.



A blanket of gold Sightseers walk through a field of wildflowers in Death Valley National Park in Death Valley, Calif. Heavy winter rains have led to an explosion of wildflowers throughout the usually barren landscape.



Willing to work Jim White, left, and Andrew Boney carry snow shovels while walking along Route 229 in Bristol, Conn. They were looking for a way to make a few bucks off the snow storm.



What a mess! Workers look over the scene of a derailment in Industry, Calif. The freight train derailed spilling a combustible liquid and prompting the evacuation of 11 businesses from a nearby strip mall, authorities said. No injuries were reported.

Tread gives up crooks

AR FORT SMITH — Police in Fort Smith got to the bottom of a burglary at city offices by peering into the criminal sole.

Apparently, footprints left by the burglars came from shoes popular with skateboarders. Officers discovered that only one store in Fort Smith sold the shoes, and the shoe with the unique tread was sold to only a handful of customers.

That led police to Christopher Calvin and Eric Skelton, both 23.

The men were arrested last week on suspicion of commercial burglary and theft of property. The duo worked together at a mall restaurant near the store that sold the shoes.

City officials said about \$3,000 worth of computers and other equipment was taken.

According to authorities, the burglars apparently climbed atop a vacant building, worked their way to the ledge along the third floor of another building that housed city offices and entered through an unlocked window.

First female president

LA NEW ORLEANS — Marvalene Hughes has been chosen as Dillard University's first woman president. She will officially begin July 1 as the ninth president of Dillard, a private, predominantly black school associated with the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. Hughes has been president at California State University Stanislaus campus since 1994.

License-revoking reward

MN ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Supreme Court is considering the constitutionality of a law allowing authorities to revoke the driver's license of people suspected of driving drunk.

The implied consent law allows license revocation before a judge hears the case. More than 30,000 people a year lose their licenses in Minnesota because of suspected drunk driving.

Boater rescued safely

TX AUSTIN — A boater got the ride of his life when he fell overboard and was swept through a floodgate of a dam.

Authorities said the man and a female companion were boating on Lake Austin when the boat's motor quit and the current carried the boat up against the Tom Miller Dam.

A security guard atop the dam threw a rope to the woman and guided her to a rescue boat, but Dirk Hoekstra fell into the water.

"A second later is when my feet got sucked in by the water gate and that's when I went through," Hoekstra told CNN.

He said he managed to take a good breath before he went under. "It was twisting me around like a rag doll and threw my arms all over the place and it just keeps flipping me from whirlpool to whirlpool," Hoekstra said.

He said he surfaced a quarter- to a half-mile downstream from the dam, made his way to a house on shore and called 911.

Father shoots daughter

VA VIRGINIA BEACH — A father was charged with acci-

dently shooting his 2-year-old daughter while playing with a gun, police said.

Jered Dean Grisham, 23, was arrested and charged with felony child endangerment and reckless handling of a firearm, said Rene Ball, a police spokeswoman.

Police believe Grisham was spinning the gun on his finger when it went off, grazing his daughter's legs. She was treated at a hospital and released.

Grisham is being held in jail without bond.

School looks into speech

CO PUEBLO — Officials at Colorado State University-Pueblo are investigating a student's complaint that a professor called Mexicans "lazy and bitter" during a classroom tirade against illegal immigrants.

Two students claimed tenured anthropology professor Dan Forsyth made the comment in a speech March 3, The Pueblo Chieftain reported.

According to the students, Forsyth allegedly said illegal immigrants and Mexicans have filled up U.S. prisons and "raped the system," the paper reported.

Forsyth denied the allegations, saying he only reminded students after class about a campus appearance by Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., an outspoken advocate for tighter immigration controls.

City eyes cable car fares

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A ride on a historic cable car is considered a must-do for tourists visiting the City by the Bay, like a tour of Alcatraz prison or a walk across the Golden Gate Bridge.

But the ride could soon cost them a couple extra bucks.

The board that oversees city transportation voted last week to raise the price of a cable car ride from \$3 to \$5, reasoning that tourists use cable cars far more than residents. The fare for buses, which many residents ride, would go up only a quarter.

The proposal must still be approved by Mayor Gavin Newsom, who wants to find another way to raise funds, and the Board of Supervisors.

The cable cars "shouldn't be a way for us to make money, but part of the allure and charm of the city," Newsom said.

No Sunday car sales

ME AUGUSTA — A bill that would allow Maine car dealers to sell vehicles on Sundays is dead for this session.

The Legislature's Business, Research and Economic Development Committee sent word to the House that it voted unanimously to kill the bill.

Rep. Nancy Smith, D-Monmouth, a committee co-chair, said dealers didn't support the idea and consumers expressed a desire to have one day a week to car shop without having salesmen around.

It is now illegal for dealers to sell cars, trucks or motorcycles on Sunday.

The only person to testify in favor of the bill was its sponsor, Rep. Kenneth Lindell, R-Frankfort, who said he wanted to reduce state regulation over business and give families an option to car shop on Sunday.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Army limits job options

As I read "The sting of being overlooked" (article, Feb. 26), I realized how many contractors are working here in the Middle East.

Hundreds of contractors have "volunteered" to take on the task the military has taken away from troops. Makes me wonder if we really do have an army.

These contractors who come in put their lives on the line willingly, but are paid handsomely. I am not saying they do not deserve a special memorial. They are working for the government and are, without a doubt, doing a great job.

I guess my beef is not with the contractors, but with the military itself. Many jobs are now going to civilian employment. How do you expect recruiting levels to go up when the only occupations left are in financial services?

The reason the Army had a rising number in recruiting for years was the vast amount of jobs available. It made it easier for someone to pick up a skill and use it when they were done with their military career.

Now they are taking that privilege away. What does a \$15,000 re-enlistment bonus mean to me when I can make \$130,000 a year working as a contractor overseas? I am going overseas no matter what. Why don't I do it willingly and make some cash? I think the government needs to rethink what it is doing.

My heart goes out to Roberto Stramiello, and the many other families who have lost loved ones in this war. This is not to bash contractors. It is to wake up the government. Life is too precious to take for granted.

Sgt. Jason Reyes

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Sgt. Jason Reyes
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Sgt. Jason Reyes
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Sgt. Jason Reyes
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

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Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

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senior enlisted and officers doing all the work around here. I'm not taking credit away from what they do, but I believe that the soldier (lower enlisted) is what keeps this Army going. So why are their actions in combat and the awards they receive so frequently overlooked or downgraded?

Meanwhile, the pressures of re-enlistment are so frequently stressed. Why would a soldier want to stay in a branch of military service that doesn't give credit where credit is due? How, as leaders, are we supposed to sit back and watch our soldiers get passed over for meritorious actions and slam them for having their hands in their pockets? It seems to me that achievement is frequently overlooked while the slightest mistake is not.

I might sound like a disgruntled employee but, trust me, I am not. I am just saying what few have the intestinal fortitude to say. I have watched soldiers in my task force get overlooked for very courageous actions while forward operating base dwellers go back to the States looking like war heroes. All the while, if we

have problems meeting set standards, we lower those standards to keep the numbers up.

Can someone tell me how this is supposed to work?

Sgt. Justin Chestnut

Baghdad

Female GIs, complete the look

Does wearing a uniform mean that a female is less than a woman?

There are many professions where women have to wear uniforms, such as the military, police force, fire department, some construction sites, the postal and medical fields, and the list goes on. However, because these women wear uniforms, does that make them less woman? The answer is no.

Therefore, why is it that many of our U.S. Army female soldiers, compared with all the other branches of services, have to look so beat down?

Females, take pride in your appearance. We understand that, because of your line of work, many of you may not see the need to spend much time in front of a mirror. However, make it your own time out for her self feels better about herself — and it will show.

Regardless of what others may say differently about her, she can still walk with her head held high. She doesn't need anyone to validate her, because she knows who she is, and, no question about it, she knows where she's going.

So, to my female soldiers, take a stand, let your God-given beauty shine, because you are Mother Earth and you are beautiful.

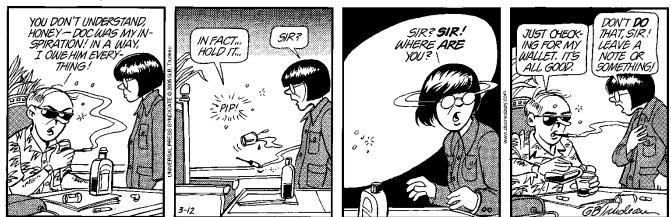
Sgt. Yolanda Jones

Taji, Iraq

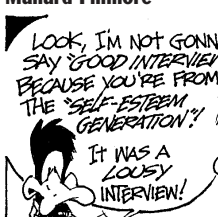
Correction

In the March 8 edition, the writer of the letter "Close But No Cigars' badge," 1st Sgt. Robert C. Dedic, was listed as listing from Kuwait. He is, in fact, serving in Baghdad.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Mallard Fillmore



BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

The position of Mars indicates a flare of fireworks between people who are normally in agreement. The issue is power — who has it, really? The roles will choose in life come with both limitations and perks. Suddenly, the perks may not seem to balance with the limitations, and adjustments are indicated. Don't rush to conclusions.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 12). You quickly learn how to attract all you need. Financial success comes from wheeling, dealing and putting yourself out there. April marks the beginning of life minus a bad habit. Educational and civic pursuits connect with friends and romance this summer. June brings a change of location. Love signs are Sagittarius and Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Smart thinking rules your day. You're so resourceful that you find uses for things you never thought you would use — like the Christmas present you received that just wasn't yours or the phone number of your ex.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The theme is: the kindness of strangers. You'll be the benefactor and the recipient of such considerations. And you'll feel a special kinship with that person who is full of intriguing ideas — you could use more of this influence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Issues of equality arise between loved ones. You'll be feeling out the balance of power and realizing its delicacy. Is there nobility in loving someone who depends on you and solely needs your love?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your artistic side emerges as the hero of the day — others are honored by your grand portrayal of them through your art. Don't underestimate the value of silliness. Singles have hot dates tonight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You feel a little bit naughty. The day plays out like a spy game of Truth or Dare. Aquarius and Gemini are

your allies. You'll be ecstatic with financial arrangements that involve a Scorpio.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're mindful of other people's feelings, but issues arise that even you are not sure how to tactfully approach. Focus on you — find your inner peace. The answer is blowing in the breeze.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The stars line up to enforce the belief that it's good to be you. Just sit down, and count the ways! The realization helps you complete your daily tasks with a flourish, as if to say, "Ain't life grand?"

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're the truth teller. You must point out the obvious to an obnoxious individual, but this move will eventually make your life easier. Passing the blame, however, would only make you look bad.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's genius in imperfection. Something broken gives you a fantastic idea or produces a fortuitous meeting that wouldn't have happened otherwise. Some of you will receive start-up cash for your idea.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When diplomacy is needed, you're as smooth as Bill Clinton. If you're single: A beautiful stranger adds spice to your life. If in a couple: Your strength is your ability to form your opinion instead of echoing a partner's views.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Depend on intuition where your affections are concerned. Get over a fear of being the "bad guy" and having a difficult conversation — making that conversation only avoids the "bad guy."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). An undecided issue could have you walking around in the daze of a quandary. Getting more opinions only confuses the matter. Don't worry. You cannot make a mistake and miss your fate. This fate is inextricably bound to you.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes

AND WHAT COULD BE BETTER THAN A SATURDAY? A MILE RUN AT DAWN IN THE FRESH COLD WEATHER.



...FOLLOWED BY A BIG BOWL OF GUMMI OATMEAL AND SOME DRY TOAST.



WON ABOUT SOME DRUGS UP FRONT. DO WE HAVE SOME CASH?



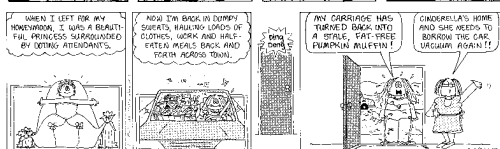
Jump Start



Zits



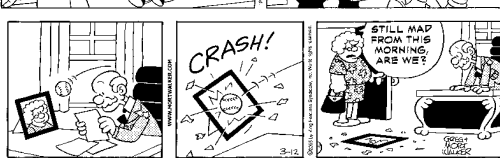
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Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



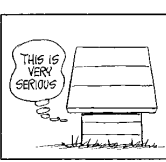
Red Rover



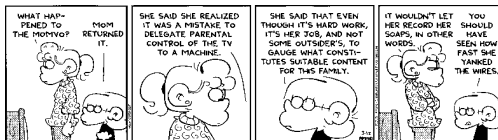
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



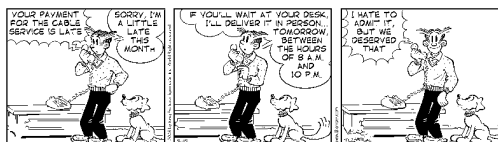
Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



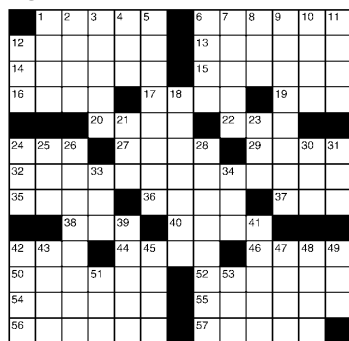
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Sew temporarily
- 6 Weak, in a way
- 12 Shrek's companion
- 13 Adjoining
- 14 Author Gordimer
- 15 Decrease
- 16 Seed coat
- 17 Propagated
- 19 Took a meeting
- 20 Maltese money
- 22 — Paulo
- 24 Upsilon follower
- 27 Georgia city
- 29 — it out (come to blows)
- 32 They're "pieciful"
- 35 Faxed
- 36 Rani's wraparound
- 37 Psmire
- 38 Popeye's Olive
- 40 All-in-black rock fan
- 42 Listener
- 44 Texas sch.
- 46 Dumbfounded
- 50 Quick look
- 52 Swindle
- 54 Family subdivisions
- 55 Inquisitive
- 56 Large bird dog
- 57 Fits like matryoshka dolls
- 2 "... can't get up!"
- 3 Dexterity
- 4 Pinocchio card
- 5 Some are penciled in
- 6 Competent
- 7 Can't do without
- 8 Curvy letter
- 9 Montana city
- 10 Concept
- 11 Minimal change
- 12 "CSI" evidence
- 18 Rush wildly
- 21 George's brother
- 23 Wood-shaping tool
- 24 Nightwear, for short
- 25 Waste not a moment
- 26 Uniformed
- 28 Certain hotel plan
- 30 "Jeopardy!" juggernaut Jennings
- 31 Superlative ending
- 33 Home for 1-Down
- 34 Teen's woe
- 39 Moolah
- 41 Uses another's password, maybe
- 42 Diner supply
- 43 Sheltered
- 45 Wardrobe malfunction
- 47 Teeniest part
- 48 Sea flock
- 49 Diploma datum (Abbr.)
- 51 Trawler equipment
- 53 Work with

Answer to Previous Puzzle



Down

- 1 Papa porker

3-12

CRYPTOQUIP

L PCXXIPG FIC OLDNM ESKK
MNG XGHPIV LV ENSHDG
IR S HIUUGHF MNG

EIOOSVZGH-LV-MNLGR.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN YOU DECIDE TO PURCHASE YOUR OWN HORSE, YOU WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO PONY UP.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals B

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Congress subpoenas baseball players

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Major League Baseball players will be convinced that its new, get-tough policy is enough to rid the sport of steroids.

Congress, apparently, is not. Less than two months after baseball and its players hailed the banned substances plan — and just a week after testing began at spring training — a House committee called in a handful of the sport's biggest stars to explain themselves, including Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa.

Baseball balked at the subpoenas issued Wednesday for a total of seven players to testify at the March 17 hearing of the House Government Reform Committee and vowed to take the fight to court, if necessary. The committee also demanded a variety of documents and records of baseball's drug tests.

Stanley Brand, a lawyer for the baseball commissioner's office, said the committee had no jurisdiction, was trying to violate baseball's first amendment privacy rights, and was attempting to "satisfy their prurient interest into who may and may not have engaged in this activity."

Reacting to Brand's comments, committee spokesman David Martin said: "Mr. Brand has his facts wrong. He failed to recognize that House rules give this committee the authority to investigate any matter at any time, and we are authorized to request or compel testimony and document production related to any investigation."

"It's a shame that Major League Base-

Panel chair calls for all U.S. sports to adopt a single drug-testing plan

ball has resorted to hiding behind 'legalese' — and inaccurate 'legalese' at that."

On Thursday, the chairman of a House panel said that all major U.S. sports leagues should work toward a single testing plan.

"Our elite athletic organizations, both professional and amateur, should establish uniform, world-class, drug-testing standards that are as consistent and robust as our criminal laws in this area," said Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla. "Nothing less should be tolerated."

Stearns' comments came at the opening of a hearing of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee he chairs. Labor lawyers from Major League Baseball and the National Football League were to testify later.

The other players subpoenaed to appear next week were Jose Canseco — who recently published a book outlining allegations of steroid use by McGwire and others — Jason Giambi, Curt Schilling, Rafael Palmeiro and Frank Thomas. Also called were players' association head Donald Fehr, baseball executive vice presidents Rob Manfred and Sandy Alderson, and San Diego Padres general manager Kevin Towers.

Canseco, Fehr and Manfred have agreed to testify, with Manfred appearing on behalf of commissioner Bud Selig. Before the subpoenas were issued, Brand told the committee the other players were declining invitations to appear.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the hearing will take place as scheduled.

Under pressure from Congress and under the shadow of a grand jury investigation into an alleged steroid-distribution ring, Major League Baseball and its players' association agreed in January to a tougher steroid-testing program. The agreement will suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.

Ownership and the union patted themselves on the back when the deal was struck, with Fehr saying at the time: "I will be surprised if over time this doesn't take care of the problem virtually completely."

Even Sen. John McCain, who had threatened baseball with legislation if it didn't strengthen its drug policy, sounded satisfied back in January. "It appears to be a significant breakthrough."

On Saturday, Selig announced that the number of positive tests for steroids in baseball dropped to between 1 to 2 percent last season.

"I am very confident that we will effec-

tively rid our sport of steroids in this coming season," he said.

But committee chairman Rep. Tom Davis and ranking Democrat Rep. Henry Waxman said in a statement Wednesday that "we need to better understand the steps MLB is taking to get a handle on the steroid issue, and whether news of those steps — and the public health danger posed by steroid use — is reaching America's youth."

Stearns' House Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection subcommittee also was scheduled to hear from Donald Hooton of Plano, Texas, whose son was a steroid user and committed suicide, and Dr. Ralph Hale, chairman of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which oversees drug testing for Olympic sports.

Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman, Joe Barton, R-Texas, said this could be the first of a series of hearings on the issue and that at some point baseball might be issued for commissioners of the major sports leagues.

"The time has come to put an end to this mess and reclaim sports as competition," he said.

Barton said use of performance-enhancing drugs is tainting sports and its stars, noting that as San Francisco Giants star Barry Bonds pursues the career home run record there are questions about whether he has been aided by steroids.

"With Babe Ruth, people didn't worry about him taking steroids. They worried about eating another hot dog," Barton said.

Associated Press Writer Larry Marzabani in Washington and AP Sports Writer Marquis Blum in New York contributed to this report.

Bonds tests knee in outfield for first time this spring

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Barry Bonds' swing looks ready to be tested in an exhibition game. The status of his recovering right knee remains uncertain.

Bonds took batting practice for the third straight day Wednesday and also shagged flyballs in left field for the first time all spring, a sign that he's progressing in his rehabilitation from arthroscopic knee surgery on Jan. 31.

The San Francisco slugger had four turns in the batter's box at

Spring training roundup

With hitting coach Joe Lefebvre looking on, Bonds hit four home runs, all to right field or right-center. One hit a tree.

"It's like Ted Williams used to hit," manager Felipe Alou said. "He picks up the bat, hits line drives and puts the ball over the fence. He's still favoring his knee

a bit, but the timing is there."

In left field, he shagged balls for about five minutes, even making a behind-the-back catch. The 40-year-old Bonds expects to be ready for opening day April 5 against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

At Mesa, Ariz., rather than risking serious injury, Kerry Wood figured it was safer to cut short his start after experiencing tightness in his shoulder. Wood felt tightness during the second inning of the Chicago Cubs' 6-5 loss to the Texas Rangers, but finished the inning. He stopped while warming

up for the third and walked off the field after talking with a trainer.

He called his exit from the game "precautionary."

"The inning before, I felt tightness in the shoulder," Wood said. "Everything felt great. I came in and sat down, and everything felt great. It was just a little bit of tightness, and it's too early to be messing around with anything right now. We thought it would be best to shut it down for the day."

Wood missed the entire 1999 season after undergoing Tommy John surgery and he was out for

two months last year with tendinitis in his right triceps.

At Sarasota, Fla., the Cincinnati Reds announced center fielder Ken Griffey Jr. will play Thursday for the first time this spring after taking a slow approach to his rehabilitation from a torn hamstring. The Reds plan to use Griffey as a designated hitter in their home game against Detroit after receiving permission from the league and the Tigers. He also has permission to be the DH in Cincinnati's next three home games.

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A happy return for Coles

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Laveranues Coles took some parting shots at the New York Jets when he left for Washington. Two years later,

Coles is back in the good graces of his old team. Coles passed a physical with the Jets on Wednesday, making his trade from the Redskins complete after nearly two weeks of on-again, off-again talks. In return, the Redskins get former first-round pick Santana Moss, who has yet to live up to his potential.

For Coles, it was good to be back in New York, where he started his career and developed a strong relationship with coach Herman Edwards and quarterback Chad Pennington.

"The guys here are all excited being here and that's what's important," Coles said on a conference call. "When I was here I really enjoyed myself. This is where I started and I had a great relationship with everyone here, so it was very good for me to come back."

His relationship with Edwards appeared to turn sour when Coles was traded to the Jets in 2003, after the team failed to match a lucrative offer from the Redskins. Coles criticized Edwards because he was given multiple assurances the team would keep him.

"Well, back then I was very immature about the business side of it and now I understand it," Coles said. "But I think my emotions got involved and I said some things I shouldn't have said."

Coles might not be the only former player on the Jets. Two-time NFL rushing champion Edgerrin James could wind up on



Wide receiver Laveranues Coles passed his physical on Wednesday, making his trade from the Washington Redskins back to the New York Jets complete.

the trading block.

James could be a big bargain for someone. Agent Drew Rosenhaus says the Indianapolis Colts aren't demanding a first-round pick for the running back.

James, the Colts' career rushing leader, was designated the team's franchise player last month. Now Rosenhaus, who said he spoke with Colts president Bill Polian on Wednesday, is looking for a trade.

"The bottom line is that I talked to the Colts today, and he doesn't think he can get a long-term deal done," Rosenhaus said.

If another team signed James and the Colts did not match the offer within seven days, Indianapolis would get two first-round draft picks.

In developments on Thursday: ■ The New York Giants said they were no longer interested in signing free-agent wide receiver Plaxico Burress. The former Pittsburgh Steeler met with the Giants on Wednesday and Thursday before leaving to visit the Minnesota Vikings. The Giants also signed 11-year veteran Jim Miller as a backup to Eli Manning.

■ Atlanta signed linebacker and Pro Bowl special teams player Ike Reese. The 6-foot-2, 222-pound Reese, who spent seven seasons in Philadelphia, is considered one of the best special teams players in the NFL.

Favre with the back to the Pack

QB told coach of his decision, which is based on wife's improving health

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

Brett Favre is returning to Green Bay for the 2005 season, Packers coach Mike Sherman told The Associated Press.

Sherman said Thursday he had a two-hour conversation with his quarterback on Wednesday night. Favre informed him his wife is doing well in her cancer treatment, so he's planning to play at least one more season, maybe more if he's healthy.

"It came down to his wife and she's doing well in her recovery," Sherman said. "She wants him to play. He said he's looking forward to playing — hopefully without any off-the-field situations and 'enjoying the journey.'"

The three-time MVP said after the Packers' playoff loss to Minnesota in January he wanted to reflect before committing to playing a 15th NFL season following a year of personal turmoil.

His wife, Deanna, was diagnosed with breast cancer in October, a week after the death of her 24-year-old brother in an ATV accident on the quarterback's property in Mississippi.

And Favre was still dealing with the stunning news of Reggie White's death on the day after Christmas, which came about a year after the death of Favre's father, Irv, from a heart attack.

After the season, he just wanted to think about some things," Sherman said. "Any man would

have to contemplate his future when his wife is fighting cancer. It's not like he had to work to make money. He didn't want to be a part-time husband and a part-time football player. It came down to his wife. If she's not healthy, it's obviously a different ballgame. But now she's doing good. She wants him to play."

It never was a question of diminished ability because even at 35, Favre is still near the top of his game.

He topped 4,000 yards passing last season and recorded his eighth 30-touchdown season, twice as many as any other NFL quarterback, and the Packers set franchise records for total offense and net passing yards in 2004.

"He's always been excited about playing football," Sherman said. "He's never lost his enthusiasm for the game."

Next season won't necessarily be Favre's farewell, either.

As long as he can play at a Brett Favre-level, he will," Sherman said, "unless some injury off the field, outside of football, affects him or his family."

Deanna Favre has completed chemotherapy and is undergoing radiation treatment.

In other team news, the Packers released two-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle Barry Sharpers on Thursday to trim \$3.4 million off their salary cap.

The Packers tried to get Sharpers, who started the past six seasons, to restructure his deal, but he refused to take a pay cut.

Davis: Standout also famous for modesty

DAVIS, FROM BACK PAGE

"I wasn't the kind of guy who liked to pick the newspaper up to find out how I was doing. I just did my thing the best I could." Davis told the AP in 1995. "I played offense and defense and it wasn't an individual accomplishment. It was a team or lost together," he said in 1999.

Davis, who also lettered in baseball, track and basketball, visited West Point for the final time in October to be inducted into Army's Sports Hall of Fame.

Born in Claremont, Davis attended college with his late twin brother, Ralph, and later worked as a special events director for the Los Angeles Times for nearly 30 years after leaving football.

Several years ago, he donated his Heisman to his high school.

Besides his son, Davis is survived by his third wife, Yvonne Anne Davis, and a stepson, John S. Slack III from his second marriage. Davis' first marriage to Oscar-nominated actress Terry Moore ended in divorce after 14 months.

Davis, who also briefly dated Elizabeth Taylor, met Yvonne at the 1996 Heisman dinner. She was previously married to 1954 Heisman winner Alan Ameche of Wisconsin.

Associated Press writers Beth Harris and David Nadel contributed to this report.

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Miller rides a trail lead in World Cup

The Associated Press

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland — Michael Walchhofer won the World Cup downhill title Thursday after finishing fourth in the season's final race, while American Bode Miller stretched his lead for the overall title with a second-place showing.

Miller gained 80 points to extend his lead over Austrian Benjamin Raich to 128 points in the overall standings. Miller and Raich will compete in the remaining three races: super giant slalom, the title in Saturday's super-G. If he wins the race and Raich finishes out of the top 15.

Norway's Lasse Kjus won Thursday's race in 1 minute, 24.09 seconds for his first World Cup downhill victory in over a year. Miller, who needed to win to have any chance to take the downhill season title, was 0.14 behind and finished 63 points behind Walchhofer. Fritz Strobl of Austria was third in 1:24.27.

Goetsch wins women's downhill title

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland — Renate Goetsch of Austria won the final race of the season to clinch the women's World Cup downhill title Thursday, capturing the trophy for the fourth time in her career.

Goetsch entered the race with a 32-point lead over Germany's Hilde Gerg, who finished third in Thursday's race and 72 points behind Goetsch.

American Lindsey Kildow had a remote chance to win the downhill title but crashed Thursday.

American Julia Mancuso, a double bronze medalist in the world championships, tied for fourth with Janica Kostelic of Croatia.

Anja Paerson's 63-point lead over Kostelic in the overall standings was cut to 45 with three races remaining — a super giant slalom, giant slalom and slalom.

Is trails by seven in Qatar

DOHA, Qatar — Pierre Fulke of Sweden shot a 6-under 66 Thursday to take a one-stroke lead after the first round of the Qatar Masters, while Ernie Els, the only player ranked in the top 50 in the field, struggled to a 73.

Caruth's lawyers appeal to overturn conviction, sentence

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Former Carolina Panthers wide receiver Ray Caruth returned to court Thursday in his latest attempt to overturn a 2001 conviction in the slaying of his pregnant girlfriend.

The appeal in Mecklenburg Superior Court challenges the admission of key prosecution evi-

dence during Caruth's trial in late 2000: a 911 call from girlfriend Cherica Adams following the shooting and what the 24-year-old victim told a police officer at the scene and hospital.

The defense claims Adams' statements are hearsay and their introduction into evidence during the murder trial violated Caruth's constitutional right to confront his accuser.

Caruth, a first-round draft pick of the Panthers out of Colorado, is serving a sentence of at least 18 years and 11 months. Adams was eight months pregnant with Caruth's baby when she was gunned down in a drive-by shooting on Nov. 16, 1999, in south Charlotte. Doctors saved her son, Chancellor, in an emergency Caesarean but he died. Shot four times, died a month later. Born prematurely, Chancellor has cerebral palsy.

R.I. legislators take up pricey autographs

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — After the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, some fans were willing to pay hundreds of dollars for memorabilia from the team.

Like other pro athletes before them, Red Sox players cashed in on their triumph by appearing at large-scale autograph signing events to meet fans and sell their signatures for upward of \$1,000.

A Senate committee on Thursday takes up legislation that would likely put a stop to such events in Rhode Island.

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS



Rusty Wallace, right, who plans to retire from full-time competition after this season, is tired of the week-to-week grind of the 10-month Nextel Cup season. Wallace plans to focus on his family as well as his Busch Series team and car dealership when he's done racing full-time.

'Rusty's Last Car'

Wallace chasing Cup one more time before semi-retirement

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

Rusty Wallace never said he wouldn't race again. He even wonders at times if he's making the right decision to retire from full-time NASCAR competition after the 2005 season.

When he can't sleep, Wallace stares at the ceiling in the middle of the night thinking about things he did in the past, or what he'll do when he's not racing 10 months a year.

"I'm all over," he said of his thoughts. "Honestly, I'm not content at all."

But the 48-year-old Wallace is sure about one thing: He's tired of the week-to-week grind.

"I'm retiring because I'm just burnt out in the schedule," he said. "If I get through the end of 2005, and I feel like, 'Man, I'm running 300 mph and now they tell me I've got to stop,' I'm probably going to say I'll run about 10 [miles the next year]. But for sure, my days of running the full schedule are over."

After one more championship chase, that is.

Wallace began this season with

Rusty Wallace's career highlights

- 55 Nextel Cup victories
- 1989 Cup champion
- 1984 Cup Rookie of the Year
- Fourth on career earnings list
- Finished in top 10 in season points 16 times



a 14th-place finish in the Budweiser Shootout. His 22nd Nextel Cup season, which has been dubbed "Rusty's Last Call," officially got under way with a 10th-place finish in the Daytona 500, the race he can't claim among his 55 wins and the one he wanted the most.

"I wanted to win this race, but that's OK," said Wallace, who started 36th and advanced all the way to fifth before dropping back. "It really isn't OK, but I told everybody if I didn't win, it wouldn't be the end of the world. ... I'm done with it. I've had a lot of fun, and I enjoy it."

Wallace, who wrecked during Daytona qualifying and had to switch to his backup car, finished

in the top 10 nine times in 23 Daytona 500s.

His best finish in NASCAR's most prestigious race was third in 2001. He led another time with 10 laps to go, and in 1993 was third "with me, Dale Jarrett and (Dale) Earnhardt going for the win" when he was hit by another car and barrel-rolled down the backstretch.

"I haven't won the Daytona 500 and I doubt there's too many people out there who are not aware of that fact," said Wallace, the 1989 series champion and fourth on the career earnings list with nearly \$44 million. "I got close many, many times."

Still, his farewell season is about more than that elusive Daytona win. And forget nostalgia. Wallace wants to approach 2005 like any other year.

"I'm real intent to try to win more races," he said. "I want to go out on top. I don't want to go out fading. ... I'm going to be rockin' and rollin' and go wide open all year."

Wallace has finished top 10 in season points 16 times. He ended a 105-race winless streak last year but was still 16th, two spots

lower than in 2003 when a streak of 10 straight top-10 seasons ended.

"You always hear about the importance of making first impressions," he said. "But for us, we're determined to leave some great last impressions."

Once full-time driving is done, Wallace won't be bored.

He hopes the Busch Series team he owns, running its first full schedule this year, will be a championship contender by 2006.

He also will spend more time on his car dealership business and with 17-year-old son Stephen, an aspiring NASCAR driver who will race in the Hooters Pro Cup Series this year.

Not to mention more time with his wife, Patti, playing golf and his duties as part-owner of the Penske team.

"What I'm going to have to do is just get in and go, and figure it out as I go," Wallace said. "We'll adjust as the year goes on. I've never gone one year in my life where I've been able to plan two years ahead. For me, to plan two weeks ahead is pretty tough for me."

"There will be a lot of excitement. Sometimes there will be tears in your beer."

NEXTEL CUP

Race 2:
UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400
Las Vegas Speedway
4 a.m. Monday,
AFN-Pacific/Korea.

Last race: Greg Biffle took the lead on lap 228 and held off a hard-charging Jimmie Johnson to win the Auto Club 500 at Fontana, Calif., on Feb. 27. Biffle once came back from as far as 30th place.

Last year: Matt Kenseth won his second straight race by taking the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400.

Driver to watch: Matt Kenseth

The 2003 Cup champion has won the past two Nextel Cup races at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, despite starting 25th and 17th. Kenseth finished 26th at Fontana on Feb. 17 and was next to last in the Daytona 500. He drives a Ford, a make that has won the seven Nextel Cup races in Las Vegas.



DRIVER STANDINGS

After 2 of 36 races

1. Kurt Busch	340
2. Jimmie Johnson	335
3. Mark Martin	301
4. Carl Edwards	287
5. Greg Biffle	273
6. Elliott Sadler	272
7. Tony Stewart	268
8. Rusty Wallace	268
9. Sterling Marlin	260
10. Jeff Gordon	258
11. Dale Jarrett	248
12. Ryan Newman	246
13. Kevin Harvick	239
14. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	237
15. Mike Bliss	236
16. Kyle Petty	231
17. Jamie McMurray	227
18. Scott Riggs	224
19. Kevin Lepage	208
20. Brian Vickers	205

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Sam's Town 300 at Las Vegas (Tape-delayed, 5 p.m. Sunday, AFN Sports).
Last race: Defending champion Martin Truex Jr. held on after an early pit stop to win the Inco-Motorola 300 at Homestead City circuit's first race outside the U.S.
Next race: Aaron's 312, March 19, Hampton, Ga.

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Italian Giancarlo Fisichella won the season-opening Australian Grand Prix in a weekend highlighted by rule changes and a blown tire. Schumacher crashed out with 15 laps remaining after starting on the back of the grid because of a wheel change.
Next race: Malaysian Grand Prix, March 20, Kuala Lumpur.

INDY RACING

Last race: Dan Wheldon led 158 of 200 laps en route to a dominant win in the season opener, the Toyota Indy 300 at Homestead, Fla.
Next race: XM Satellite Radio Indy 300, March 19, Avondale, Ariz.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCKS

Last race: Steve Park earned his first Truck series win by taking the American Truck Series race at Phoenix. Park's previous victory came in the Nextel Cup series in January 2001, seven months before he suffered a serious head injury.
Next race: World Financial Group 200, March 18, Hampton, Ga.

Standings for other series on Page 33.

Eagles ousted

W. Virginia improves NCAA hopes, defeats ACC-bound Boston College

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — West Virginia made sure Boston College's last appearance in the Big East tournament was brief.

Mike Gansey scored 21 points and West Virginia hung on to upset No. 7 Boston College 78-72 in the quarterfinals on Thursday, ruining the Eagles' bid for a final conference championship.

"It's a great feeling to come in here, play against a good team and prove that we're a good team," Mountaineers center Kevin Pittsnogle said. "We're having a lot of fun."

Pittsnogle added 17 points for the Mountaineers (20-9), who likely wrapped up an NCAA tournament at-large bid.

"That committee is so thorough with this thing and they will choose the right teams," West Virginia coach John Beilein said. "Obviously, I'm biased, but they will choose the right teams and there's no doubt in our minds that we're one of the right teams."

West Virginia, the No. 8 seed, improved to 3-8 in the tournament and advanced to its first semifinal — against Villanova — Friday at Madison Square Garden. Making the victory even more impressive was the fact that the Mountaineers did it without top scorer Tyrone Sully, who was out with a stomach ailment.

Craig Smith scored 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds for Boston College (24-4), the tournament's top seed. The Eagles are leaving the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference after this season.

"They came out and were aggressive," Smith said. "When you're top dog, people are going to come for you. You know, this is a wakeup call for us. We still have a chance to do something special." The Eagles, who shared the regular-season title with Connecticut, are 4-4 after going 20-0, possibly

hurting their chances to earn a top-3 seed.

"Guys have to take a little pride in themselves and with their team and go out and work harder," Boston College coach Al Skinner said. "It's just that simple. Our preparation, our focus has got to be there. Right now, it's lacking."

West Virginia looked as though it would win easily before the Eagles stormed back.

The Mountaineers took their biggest lead — 25 points — just 19 seconds into the second half on Gansey's three-point play that made it 47-22.

We didn't come out and play the way we're capable of playing," Boston College's Jared Dudley said. "West Virginia came out, were more aggressive and executed their offense. We didn't defend them at all."

Trailing 50-26, Boston College went on a 10-0 run, capped by consecutive dunks by Sean Marshall to get the Eagles within 14 with 13:16 left.

The Eagles continued to wait for the lead at the end, but the 6-foot-11 Pittsnogle hit a three-pointer with 8:16 left to make it 58-44.

Boston College responded with an 11-5 run, capped by Marshall's three-pointer, to make it 62-58 with 4:41 left.

West Virginia scored the next three baskets — including the third of Pittsnogle's three-pointers — to push the lead back to 11.

In another quarterfinal game on Thursday

No. 19 Villanova 67, No. 22 Pittsburgh 58: Randy Foye scored 23 points and Villanova (22-6) won its eighth straight game and advanced to the semifinals for the second straight year.

The loss ended Pittsburgh's four-year run of championship-game appearances. The Panthers' only title in that span came in 2003.

Pittsburgh (20-8) entered the game as the second-best shooting team in the conference at 47.8 percent. The Panthers shot a season-worst 35 percent (20-for-57)



West Virginia's Frank Young, right, reacts in front of Boston College's Sean Marshall on Thursday after making a three-pointer during the first half that helped give the Mountaineers a 44-22 halftime lead over the top-seeded Eagles. West Virginia, the eighth seed, won 78-72.

against Villanova, going 5-for-25 in the first half.

The 58 points were the second-lowest total of the season for the Panthers. Pittsburgh didn't make a field goal during the final 8½ minutes of the first half, going 0-for-9 and committing four turnovers. The Wildcats closed the half with a 14-5 run to take a 31-19 lead.

Villanova got the lead to 17 points twice, the last time at 42:25 on two free throws by Foye with 13:15 left.

In Wednesday's first-round games:

Rutgers 72, Notre Dame 65: Ricky Shields scored 21 points, including the first four in a game-closing 8-0 run by Rutgers (10-18).

The loss may have ended the NCAA tournament at-large hopes for Notre Dame (17-11), which has lost four of five.

Shields scored on a drive with

1:15 left to give the Scarlet Knights the lead for good at 66-65. He then stole the ball from Colin Falls and went the length of the court for a layup with 57 seconds left.

Georgetown 56, Seton Hall 51: Darrel Owens was perfect on four three-point attempts and scored all 14 of his points over the final eight minutes as Georgetown (17-11) snapped a five-game losing streak.

The seventh-seeded Hoyas had to win to have any chance at an at-large berth in the NCAA tournament. Their next opponent is second-seeded and 12th-ranked Connecticut (21-6).

West Virginia 82, Providence 59: Kevin Pittsnogle matched his career high with five three-pointers and finished with 24 points for the Mountaineers.

Ryan Gomes had 20 points in his final game for Providence (14-17).

Louisville routs TCU, rolls into semifinals

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Larry O'Bannon scored 18 points to lead five Louisville players in double figures, and the sixth-ranked Cardinals beat TCU 85-61 Thursday in the quarterfinals of the Conference USA tournament.

Conf. USA

The top-seeded Cardinals (27-4) never trailed in winning their seventh straight game and 16th in their last 17. The regular-season champion will play UAB in the semifinals on Friday.

TCU (19-13) hasn't advanced into the quarterfinals in the quarter-century since reaching the semifinals of the Western Athletic Conference tournament in 2000. The Horned Frogs played close for the first 11 minutes, then Louisville blew them out like it has in four of the previous five meetings.

The Cardinals were at full strength after losing four starters. Dean is clear of the mononucleosis that had limited his playing time. Dean started his first game since Feb. 12 and had 12 points.

Francisco Garcia had 15 for Louisville, Otis George added 11 and Ellis Myles 10 and 10 rebounds. Louisville, which led 36-10 at halftime, outscored TCU 41-28.

Aaron Curtis had 14 points for TCU.

On Thursday:

UAB 59, DePaul 56: Demario Eddins hit a three-pointer from the left corner with 8 seconds left to lift the Blazers into the semis.

Eddins gave UAB (19-10) a 56-55 lead with a three-pointer from the top of the key with 1:28 remaining.

He finished with 11 points, as did Donell Taylor. Marvett McDonald and Marques Lewis had 10 each for fourth-seeded UAB.

Quemont Greer led No. 5 seed DePaul (19-10) with 17 points and nine rebounds. Sammy Mejia finished with 11 points on 5-of-13 shooting. Drake Diener scored 10.

In first-round games Wednesday:

DePaul 81, Tulane 71: Sammy Mejia and Quemont Greer each scored 18 points as DePaul snapped a two-game losing streak. Drake Diener added 14 points for DePaul and Draclon Burns had 10 points.

Tulane (10-18) had snapped a five-game winning spell by beating East Carolina last weekend to earn the No. 12 seed.

Memphis 79, Saint Louis 59: Rodney Carney ended his 1-for-19 shooting slump with 23 points and Jeremy Hunt added 22 for Memphis (17-14), which ended a four-game losing streak.

Luke Meyer had 12 points to lead Saint Louis (9-18).

South Florida 69, Houston 64: Terrence Leather, who finished with 25 points and 14 rebounds, hit a basket to snap a 64-64 tie in the 26 seconds left and the Bulls (13-15) ended the NCAA hopes of Houston (18-13) and first-year coach Tom Penders.



Channing Frye had a game-high 22 points Thursday to lead Arizona to an 88-63 victory over Cal.

Arizona romps in Pac-10 opener

By Beth Harris

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Channing Frye scored 22 points on 10-of-11 shooting and No. 8 Arizona routed California 88-63 Thursday in the opening game of the Pac-10 tournament.

Frye was perfect until missing a 15-footer with 13:05 remaining. He sat down for good moments later, only because the Wildcats led by 28.

"I wasn't keeping track," Frye said. "I felt in a groove. I was hitting open shots. It's not like anyone was contesting them."

Arizona led 42-23 at halftime and coach Luke Olson gave his starters a lengthy rest in the second half as the lead grew to 30.

Arizona (26-5) advanced to Friday's semifinals against either UCLA or Oregon State. The Wildcats have won 14 of their past 16.

The eighth-seeded Golden Bears (13-16) ended the season with seven losses in eight games. Cal has lost in the tournament's first round five times.

"It was happy with the way we came out," said Olson, who earned his 30th Pac-10 career victory. "We made it difficult for Cal to score. We did a good job of getting good looks and knocking shots down."

Arizona, the regular-season Pac-10 champion, is seeded No. 1 in the tournament for the second time in three seasons. The Wild-

cats improved to 14-3 in the tournament, which they've won a conference-best four times. This is the eighth Pac-10 tournament.

Jawann McClellan added 14 points for the Wildcats. Mustafa Shakur and Hassan Adams had 10 points each. Salim Stoudamire, who joined Frye on the all-Pac-10 team, was held to seven points.

Dominic McGuire led the Bears with 13 points and Richard Midgley added 10.

Arizona controlled the boards, 39-27, and shot 58 percent from the field.

The Wildcats dominated the first half, opening the game with a 10-0 run in which all five starters scored. They shot 57 percent in the half.

Bogut challenged, but sparks Utah to victory

The Associated Press

DENVER — Andrew Bogut scored 11 of his 21 points over the first 4½ minutes and No. 15 Utah's guards took over from there in a 62-49 victory over Colorado State in the opening round of the Mountain West Conference tournament on Thursday.

Bogut, regarded as perhaps the best player in the country, also grabbed 17 rebounds, but was held in check for long stretches.

With the conference's freshman of the year, 7-footer Jason Smith, shutting down the big Australian — even rejecting his shot three times — it was Marc Jackson and Bryant Markham who helped top-seeded Utah (26-4) pull away.

Jackson (14 points, five assists) made two free throws, a three-pointer and converted a three-point play during a 19-4 run in the second half that turned a one-point halftime deficit into a 55-39 lead.

Markum (12 points) had a three-quarter-court trip that the Rams had trouble handling in the second half.

ACC

Clemson 84, Maryland 72: In Washington, D.C., Shawan Robinson made six three-pointers and scored 24 points to lead Clemson past defending champion Maryland in the opening round of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament.

It marked the first time in school history that Clemson (16-14) beat Maryland (16-12) three times in a season.

The loss was a serious blow to Maryland's bid to reach the NCAA tournament for the 12th straight season. The Terps have lost four straight and five of six, the lone victory a double-overtime escape against last-place Virginia.

Clemson led 55-50 before reserve Olu Babalola made a three-point play and a three-pointer to expand the margin to 11, and the Terrapins got no closer than nine points.

N.C. State 70, Florida State 54: Iliyan Evtimov had five three-pointers in the first half and scored 18 points and Engin Atsuz added 17 for the Wolfpack (18-12), who moved on to a rematch with Wake Forest. In the teams' meeting earlier this week, which Wake Forest won in a last-second basket, point guard Chris Paul punched



Iowa State's Damian Staple stretches to corral a loose ball during Thursday's Big 12 tournament game against Baylor in Kansas City, Mo. Iowa State won 77-57.

N.C. State's Julius Hodge in the groin, leading to a one-game suspension for Paul.

Big Ten

Northwestern 58, Michigan 56: At Chicago, Mohamed Elchard scored 17 points, and T.J. Parker keyed a 12-0 second-half run and made three free throws in the final 8 seconds to lead Northwestern.

Parker scored eight points during Northwestern's run, which put the Wildcats (15-15) ahead 51-41 with 7:07 to go.

Iowa 71, Purdue 52: Gene Keady's 25-year coaching career at Purdue ended on a down note as Iowa (20-10) bounded the Boilermakers (7-21) from the Big Ten tournament. Keady finishes with a Career record of 550-289 that includes six Big Ten titles and 17 NCAA appearances.

Southeastern

Mississippi 53, South Carolina 52: At Atlanta, Thelma Eddie scored 17 points and Mississippi held on after officials overturned what would have been a tying three-pointer by the Gamecocks.

Tre Kelley banked in a three-pointer with 1.7 seconds to go, apparently tying the game. But officials reviewed the shot on tape and found that Kelley's toe was on the

line when he launched the shot, making it a two-pointer and leaving South Carolina a point short.

Mississippi State 76, Georgia 65: Shane Power scored 15 points for Mississippi State (22-9), which used a 25-9 second-half run to put away Georgia (8-20). Mississippi State stretched a 41-39 lead to 18 points and coasted into Friday's matchup with Florida.

Missouri 70, Nebraska 67: At Kansas City, Mo., Lins Kleiza scored 26 points as Missouri squeaked past Nebraska.

Joe McCray, minutes after breaking the Big 12 freshman record for three-pointers in a season, launched one from behind the arc with three seconds left. But it rattled in and out, giving the Tigers (16-15) their third win over the Huskers (14-14).

Iowa St. 77, Baylor 57: Rashon Clark scored 20 points and Jared Homan added 17 points as Iowa State (18-10) scored the first 17 points of the game on the way to winning for the 10th time in 12 games.

Baylor (9-19), which missed the 2004 Big 12 championship because of self-imposed sanctions for NCAA violations under former coach Dave Bliss, ended its season

on a 14-game losing streak. The Bears have not won a first-round Big 12 game since a surprising run to the semifinals in 2001.

Atlantic 10

Xavier 83, La Salle 70: At Cincinnati, Stanley Burrell and Justin Cage led a balanced attack with 16 points apiece as Xavier (17-11) advanced to a rematch with St. Joseph's in the Atlantic 10 tournament.

Last season, Xavier knocked off unbeaten and top-ranked St. Joseph's to gain an unlikely berth in the NCAA tournament. The Musketeers may need more than a defeat of St. Joe's to return to the field of 65 this season.

Saint Joseph's 63, Richmond 51: Junior Dave Mallon, who averages 3.1 points a game and had never scored in double figures, scored a career-high 17 points and Atlantic 10 co-player of the year Pat Carroll added 16 for the Hawks (18-10), who have the tournament's top seed and have won seven of their last eight games.

Andres Sandoval and Jermaine Buckner each scored 11 points to lead the Spiders (14-15).

In Wednesday games:

Big Sky

Montana 63, Weber State 61: Kamarr Davis had 19 points as Montana (18-12) earned its first trip to the tournament since 2002 by holding off Weber State (14-16) for the Big Sky title.

Northwest

Fairleigh Dickinson 58, Wagner 52: At Hackensack, N.J., India Andrea Crosaroli scored 18 points to lead the Knights (20-8) to their first NCAA berth in seven years.

Big West

UC Irvine 80, Idaho 67: At Anaheim, Calif., Aaron Fitzgerald made six three-pointers on 19 points to scoring 30 points as UC Irvine (16-12) rolled past Idaho (8-22) and into the Big West tournament's second round against Cal State Northridge.

UC Santa Barbara 55, Long Beach St. 49: Joe See scored 19 points — 14 in the second half — as UC Santa Barbara (11-17) overcame a 12-point second-half deficit to beat Long Beach State (10-20).

See, held without a field goal in the first half, went 3-for-4 from behind the three-point line in the second half.

Conference tournaments

America East

Championship
Saturday
Northeast at Vermont

Atlantic Coast

Thursday
Clemson 84, Maryland 72
North Carolina 57, Florida St. 54
Miami vs. Virginia

Friday
North Carolina vs. Clemson
Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech
Wake Forest vs. N.C. State
Duke vs. Miami/Virginia

Semifinals
Saturday
Championship

Atlantic 10

Wednesday
Richmond 68, Rhode Island 66
La Salle 70, Massachusetts 64, OT
DePaul 65, Duquesne 53
Dayton 78, St. Bonaventure 68

Thursday
Saint Joseph's 63, Richmond 51
Xavier 83, La Salle 70

Friday
Xavier at Georgetown vs. Fordham
Temple vs. Dayton

Semifinals
Saturday
Championship

Big East

Wednesday
West Virginia 82, Providence 59
Georgetown 55, Seton Hall 51
Rutgers 72, Notre Dame 65

Thursday
Championship

West Virginia 78, Boston College 72
Villanova 65, Pittsburgh 58
Connecticut vs. Georgetown
Syracuse vs. Notre Dame

Semifinals
Friday
Saturday
Championship

Big Sky

Wednesday
Montana 63, Weber St. 61

Thursday
Northwestern 58, Michigan 56
Iowa 71, Purdue 52
Ohio State vs. Penn State

Friday
Illinois vs. Northwestern
Minnesota vs. Indiana
Michigan State vs. Iowa
Wisconsin vs. Ohio State/Penn State

Saturday
Semifinals
Sunday
Championship

Big 12

Thursday
Missouri 70, Nebraska 67
Iowa State 77, Baylor 57
Texas A&M vs. Kansas State
Texas vs. Colorado

Friday
Oklahoma vs. Missouri
Texas Tech vs. Iowa State
Texas A&M vs. Texas A&M/Kansas State
Oklahoma State vs. Texas/Colorado

Saturday
Semifinals
Sunday
Championship

Big West

Wednesday
South Carolina 55, Norfolk St. 50
Coppin St. vs. Morgan State 49

Thursday
Cal Fullerton vs. UC Santa Barbara
Cal Northridge vs. UC Irvine

Semifinals
Saturday
Championship

Conference USA

Wednesday
Texas Christian 50, Marquette 57, OT
DePaul 81, Tulane 77
Memphis 79, Saint Louis 59

Thursday
Louisville 88, TCU 61
Ala.-Birmingham 59, DePaul 55
Charlotte vs. Memphis
Cincinnati vs. South Florida

Friday
Semifinals
Saturday
Championship

Mid-American

Thursday
Buffalo 85, Toledo 72
W. Michigan 66, Akron 60
Miami (Ohio) vs. Bowling Green
Ohio vs. Kent State

Friday
Semifinals
Saturday
Championship

Mid-Eastern Athletic

Wednesday
Delaware State 66, Bethune-Cookman 43
Hampson 81, Florida A&M 72

Thursday
Championship

Mountain West

Thursday
Utah 62, Colorado St. 49
UNLV vs. Wyoming
New Mexico vs. Brigham Young
Air Force vs. San Diego St.

Friday
New Mexico/UNLV vs. Air Force/San Diego St.

Semifinals
Saturday
Championship

Northwest

Wednesday
Fairleigh Dickinson 58, Wagner 52

Thursday
Championship

Pac-10

Thursday
Arizona 88, California 63
UCLA vs. Oregon State
Stanford vs. Washington State

Friday
Semifinals
Saturday
Championship

Patriot

Thursday
Bucknell at Holy Cross

Friday
Championship

Southeastern

Thursday
Mississippi 53, South Carolina 52
Mississippi State 76, Georgia 52

Arkansas vs. Tennessee

Vanderbilt vs. Auburn

Friday
Alabama vs. Missouri
Florida vs. Mississippi St.
Kentucky vs. Arkansas/Tennessee
LSU vs. Vanderbilt/Auburn

Semifinals
Saturday
Sunday
Championship

Southland

Thursday
Lamar at Northwestern State
Sam Houston State at Louisiana

Sunday
Championship

Southwestern Athletic

Thursday
Jackson St. 57, Mississippi Valley 55
Southern 69, Grambling 65, OT

Friday
Alabama St. vs. Prairie View A&M
Alabama A&M vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff

Semifinals
Saturday
Sunday
Championship

Western Athletic

Thursday
Texas-E Paso 80, Hawaii 62
Idaho vs. Southern Methodist
Fresno State vs. Louisiana Tech
Nevada vs. Boise State

Friday
Semifinals
Saturday
Championship

SPORTS

Racing Stripes: Nextel Cup veteran Wallace has mixed feelings about last season behind the wheel full-time, Page 35



Army star Davis dead at 80

RB won Heisman in '46, helped Cadets win three national titles

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Glenn Davis, who won the Heisman Trophy in 1946 and helped lead Army to three national championships, died Wednesday. He was 80.

Davis died of complications from prostate cancer at his home in La Quinta, located about 110 miles east of Los Angeles, said his son, Ralph Davis.

Glenn Davis will be buried at West Point, near his former coach, Col. Earl "Red" Blaik, according to his son.

Davis starred as a halfback for Army when it won national titles in 1944 and 1945. The Cadets and Notre Dame played to a scoreless tie in 1946, and split the national championship.

Davis teamed with fullback Felix "Doc" Blanchard, the 1945 Heisman winner, as one of the most heralded backfields in the history of college football. He was known as "Mr. Outside" to Blanchard's "Mr. Inside."

Davis scored 59 touchdowns and gained 4,129 yards in rushing and receiving in his college career.

He still holds NCAA records for most yards gained per play in one season, averaging 11.5 yards per carry in 1945, 8.3 career yards per carry; and he and Blanchard share the record for most touchdowns (97) and points (585) scored by teammates in a career.

In 1946, Davis won the Heisman and was voted male athlete of the year by The Associated Press. Davis has the best voting record of any Heisman candidate, finishing second in 1944 and 1945 before winning the award.

"He was one of the best," said former Army guard Joe Steffy, who played with Davis in 1944 and 1945.

"He left an impression. The

first time I met him, I was in awe. What he meant to the military academy and the game of college football needs no explanation."

In 1944, after a famous season-ending win over Navy, Gen. Douglas MacArthur even took time out from his war duties to send this wire: "The greatest of all Army teams ... We have stopped the war to celebrate your magnificent success. MacArthur."

A telephone call to Blanchard's home near San Antonio, Texas, was answered by his granddaughter, who said he had already gone to bed. Blanchard won the Heisman in 1945.

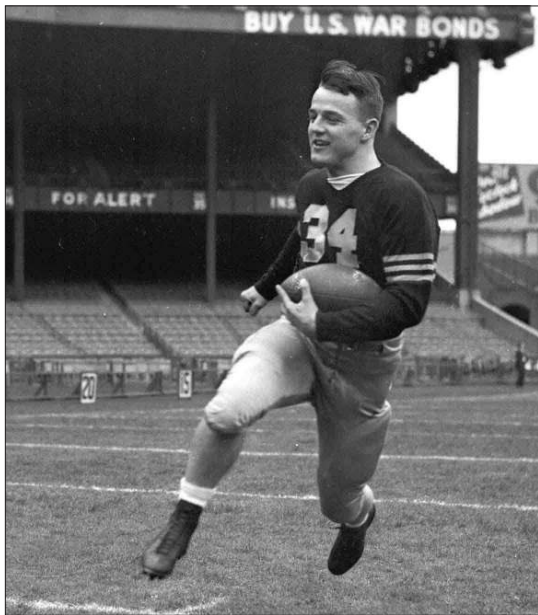
After serving his military obligation, Davis joined the Los Angeles Rams, playing on the team that won the 1951 NFL championship before a knee injury cut his career short in 1952.

Renowned for his lightning speed, Davis was coming off a record-breaking career at Bonita High School in LaVerne, Calif., where he scored an amazing 256 points during his senior year, when he was persuaded to play for Army in 1943.

The 5-9, 170-pounder became an instant star. Davis scored his first Army touchdown on a 4-yard run in a 27-0 season-opening win over Villanova, threw a touchdown pass in a 42-0 win over Colgate, ran 82 yards for a score in a 52-0 shellacking of Columbia, and returned a kick 75 yards for a touchdown in a 39-7 victory over Yale.

"He was the fastest man in football," Steffy said. "He was a great athlete, believe me."

Davis and Blanchard were national sports heroes, appearing on the cover of Time magazine in November 1945. Despite the accolades, Davis over the years showed a certain modesty about his prowess.



Army's Glenn Davis carries the ball in this Nov. 28, 1944 file photo in New York. Davis, who won the Heisman Trophy in 1946 and helped lead Army to a 27-0-1 record and three national championships from 1944 to 1946, died Wednesday of complications from prostate cancer at his home in La Quinta, Calif. He was 80.

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West Virginia topples Big East top-seed BC; most favorites advance early in tournaments

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Congressman says all pro leagues in U.S. should work toward common drug-testing policy

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Packers' Favre tells his coach he'll play in 2005; ex-Redskin Coles pleased to be a Jet once again

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